

# SPY

HOLIDAY ISSUE 1996

The Best Bets in the City  
*Our On-the-Scene Report*

The Details on *Details*

Out of Line On-line  
*A Spy Prank*

The SPY

# 100

*Our List of the Worst  
People, Places, and Things  
of 1996*

#51 Jenny McCarthy  
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## Features

### The SPY 100!

You probably didn't know there even *were* a hundred vile, annoying, or even just plain noteworthy people, places, and things in 1996—but there were! And according to SPY's annual custom, we've ranked them. By **Lance Gould, David Andrews, and Jonathan Yevin.** . . . . . 32

### Space: Invade It!

If you believe loudmouths like Stephen Hawking and Carl Sagan, space is this huge cosmic entity that should make us all feel small. **Bruno Madrox** reckons it's basically a big black blob of nuthin'. . . . . 50

### SPY's Best Bets

Those "Best of Manhattan" features you see everywhere . . . all very well if you happen to be rich and well-rounded like George Stephanopoulos. But what if you're a spiky young . . . stard with no real sense of right and wrong? SPY sent its own radio-controlled hair ball, **Dan Bova**, to take the city to the cleaners. Whaddya know? It came back all dirty. . . . . 56

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### Magazine Heaven

*Details* magazine used to be the bible of shallow hedonism, but then they made a shallow hedonist editor and the magazine lost its edge quicker than a cake left out in the rain. **Celia Brady** ponders the irony. . . . . 30

### Ethics, Inc.

Children don't even *drink* cola, yet PepsiCo somehow feels it's appropriate to market their syrupy black elixir by sponsoring rock climbing in South America. Throwing the international soft-drink community into spasms of contrition, **Gary Rosenberger** sets the cat amongst the edible pigeons. . . . . 66



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They may not look cool—and believe us, they aren't—but SPY's world-renowned annoyance technicians have a sixth sense that enables them to know *exactly* how annoying everything is. This year, our Texas-based septet was particularly irked by *Friends*, the Olympics, and the macarena.

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### Naked City

SPY hits you with a stocking stuffer; Hertz is "not exactly" free of psychopathic tendencies; Swimming with Turks; How to talk to criminals; Kathie Lee "Running Dog" Gifford likes wampum in the tepee; Children's indigenous hula hoops and the like; How to *not* change the world in 60 seconds; Separated at Birth; People who drive taxis, it turns out, are all brunettes; The eye-popping exploits of Dick "Dick" Morris; Embarrassing photos of various celebrities and hilarious captions!; and 1-800-D-O-C-T-O-R-M-Y-B-R-A-I-N.....14

### SPYmutiae

Shit happens. And then it happens somewhere else. And then, maybe, for one thrumming instant, a connection obtains between the two incidents, *just* long enough to be photographed and nailed by its nubbin to the back page of SPY.....72

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#### SPY MAGAZINE

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## From the SPY Mailroom

IT'S NOT EASY BEING SEXY! Or is it? No. Come to think of it, it really isn't. Not if you work in a mailroom. Sure, you may know the nine-digit zip code for the Unabomber's cabin, and bubble-wrap may cleave before your thumbnail like an old woman's fat 'neath a scalpel, but on the open meat market, even the best-appointed mailroom is unlikely to win you too many sexual favors. It is not, as Swedish ornithologists term it, much of a *lek*. Not that you'll ever hear *us* complaining! First and foremost, of course, we work in a heavily soundproofed chamber, noiselessly probing the postal arts. Second—and secondly—we know how tough real sex can be out there in the so-called world.

Taking issue, for instance, with the term "practicing lesbian" in Bruno Maddox's rock 'n' roll breakdown, Karen from Louisiana wrote in to advise: "What exactly is the point of being a lesbian if you aren't working at it? A lesbian without practice is just another horny short-haired girl getting drunk at the local bar." "Short-haired," Karen? "Horny?" Are we talking about human beings here, or unicorns? Seriously, though, point taken. True sexual fulfillment takes an enormous amount of hard work. You have to, as the sportscasters say, "want it more than the other guy." This lack of dedication seems to be the prime beef Marigold Morgan from Hayward, California, has with last month's cover girl, Demi Moore: "Bruce Willis smirking next to his semitalented sex slave—it's just too much to bear." You're darn tootin', Marigold. There are few things more disheartening than a sex slave

# Angry, Aging Rock Fans Get Mad

## I Know You Are, But What Am I?

**W**as it necessary for Bruno Maddox to refer to Elvis Presley as a "fat bastard" in his article "Rock 'n' Roll Autopsy" [December 1996]? I'm sure Maddox thinks he's pretty clever, but I'd like to remind him that people will still be getting a lot of pleasure out of listening to Presley's music—as well as acknowledging his not-inconsiderable contributions to rock—long after Maddox's article is consigned to the recycling bin.

Although I got a few chuckles out of the piece, much of it struck me as yet another example of the same old rock 'n' roll bashing that has been going on as long as the genre's been around. There's absolutely nothing wrong with "Octopus's Garden." If Maddox has written a better song, I'd be delighted to listen to it. (I agree that "Hotel California" is pretty bad—with or without music.)

Maddox's assertion that Ringo Starr was looked upon by Lennon and McCartney as a clown is without merit, as well. When Ringo—because of personality conflicts with the rest of the group—briefly left the Beatles during the recording of *The White Album*, Paul welcomed him back by adorning his drum kit with flowers. Not the sort of treatment you'd expect a "clown" to receive.

Ed O'Donnell  
Providence, RI

*Actually, it is. Oversize shoes, a drum kit covered with flowers, big red noses—it's all "clown" stuff.*

**I** had to laugh when I read Bruno Maddox's rock 'n' roll piece, not so much at the article itself but at the author. Maddox is apparently unaware that Bob Dylan's "Ballad of a Thin Man" (referred to in the piece under "Savage, Meaningless Sarcasm"), far from being gibberish is actually an attack on critics and journalists such as Maddox who try to write about what they

don't understand. I guess Dylan's surrealistic imagery is too much for some critics to comprehend, but calling Dylan's lyrics meaningless gibberish is a little like faulting Picasso because he didn't paint realistic faces.

I will admit that Dylan inspired a whole generation of bad rock poets spouting gibberish (John Lennon's "I Am the Walrus" a prime example), and Dylan certainly has his share of bad songs as well, but the example cited is certainly not among them. Bruno "Mr. Jones" Maddox proves that he truly does NOT know what's happening.

Naturally you'll take this letter out of context and make a mockery of me, and I look forward to it! I remain a loyal subscriber just the same.

John Howells  
howells@bigfoot.com

**B**runo Maddox: How ironic, that in naming Robert Plant the most embarrassing man in the world, you have given yourself the title.

Shari Neece  
neec@prairie.nodak.edu

*Maddox responds: I'm glad you both find it so amusing. These last few weeks of being "The Most Embarrassing Man in the World" have been hell. I am reminded of Bob Dylan's other scathing indictment of cynics like me, "You used to be so amused/At Napoleon in rags/And the language that he used." I think that says it all.*

**I**n your December 1996 issue, you had this brilliant image of three guys in jockey boxers, hightops, and wings walking across the Brooklyn Bridge ["Apocalypse? Nah!"]. Is there any way I can obtain a large (8 x 10) print of this picture?

Peasoup@aol.com

*Sure, "Pea." Simply look up "Barely Legal" on your browser, and download away.*



REALITY BITES  
**BACK**

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**BUFFALO**  
DAVID BITTON



without the gumption to put in a little training. It's hard to get the help these days!

An altogether more forgiving letter came in from G.H., a long-suffering subscriber to *America Online*. G.H. was so divided by the spectacle of Ms. Moore's unfettered caboose that he eventually opted to gingerly plonk himself on the fence. "In conclusion," G.H. perorated, "I guess I'm trying to say you guys should show more pictures of her ass and that I would probably have sex with her anyway." Another man cursed with grudging enthusiasm for problem posteriors was Andy Leicher from Burbank, California. Holding a private postmortem on his reading of our olestra article, he mused, "That magical term 'anal leakage' was certainly what stuck with me the most. I am certain that Procter and Gamble will make a mint on the stuff." A suppository mint! That's the kind of idea that wins Nobel prizes for German-named Burbank residents, Andy! Don't just sit on that kind of brainstorm—tell someone about it, for God's sake.

On a completely, utterly, radically different subject, Mike from Connecticut felt compelled to offer SPY's own walking carpet swatch, Dan Bova, some congratulations on his epic, epically hairy, angelic assault on Manhattan: "I have no safety net and no bootstraps to pull myself up with. I just felt selfish and wanted to let you know I really find you attractive. [Is this sick?] Just think that on those days when you feel you look cruddy that there is someone out there who would be more than willing to disagree." Well there goes *that* theory. Bova's always been one of those guys who rebels against his sexiness, who stays up till dawn gluing animal fur on himself to repel sexual boarders. And here he is: a sex object. It's crazy. Cats'll be mating with dogs next.

## Ferris's Lawyer Responds

As Matthew Broderick's attorney, I object strenuously to the article which appeared in your September/October 1996 issue, which outrageously places in the same context Mr. Broderick's involvement in a tragic automobile accident in Northern Ireland in 1987 and the intentional and heinous acts of a number of notorious criminals, including Charles Manson.

The truth is that, contrary to the implications of your article, no evidence was ever presented that Mr. Broderick "was on the 'wrong' side of the road" or otherwise responsible for the accident in question in which he suffered serious physical injury. Moreover the disposition of the inquiry into the accident did not involve a manslaughter charge, but rather a plea of "careless driving," tantamount to a minor traffic infraction and not a crime under Irish law, and certainly not any admission of wrongdoing by Mr. Broderick.

Mr. Broderick has expressed publicly and privately his great sadness at having been involved in this tragic incident and the manner in which you have chosen to revive this situation is both misleading and offensive.

Barry W. Tyerman, Law Offices of  
Armstrong Hirsch Jackoway  
Tyerman & Wertheimer

## Fruit on a Loon?

How can I send a T-shirt to V. the Bulgarian? Seriously, I'm a longtime subscriber.

Mark Mesko  
Uvalde, TX

*Send us a check, Mark, and we'll airdrop a nice clean T-shirt, replete with sniper-friendly SPY logo, deep into hard-core Balkan territory.*

I love your new feature catching journalists in the act of repeating clichés; I know I couldn't do without them. Stephen Robinson's roundup of 15 writers who used the phrase "on acid" this year must have had cheeks burning at the *Village Voice*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*!

Colin Covert  
Reporter, Star-Tribune  
Minneapolis, MN

You guys are hilarious! Honestly, this is the first time I have subscribed to a magazine and actually plan to pay for it. I'm looking forward to my future issues to see just how wild you patron saints can get. Question: how do you get away with the witty and spiteful slander of such well-known celebs? I know you have the straight dope on them, but don't you have any fear of a backlash from neurotic and loyal fans and/or family members? This is what I love most about your magazine!

Phyllis Mitchell Green  
San Antonio, TX

*We write without fear, Phyllis; thanks for noticing. Our secret? The first whiff of negative feedback and we dole out swift and violent pay-back. In fact, most of the readers on this page are already dead.*

## Twisted Sister

Congratulations! In the December 1996 issue you outdid yourselves in terms of wit and crankiness. I was particularly impressed with your exposé of assimilationist semites ["Anne Frank in the City"]. I must point out one glaring omission: Ross Geller of *Friends* sports the most overwhelming 'denial' in the history of television—his TV sister Monica is played by anti-Jew [i.e. ultra-WASP] Courteney Cox.

Alice Braverman  
Minneapolis, MN

Maybe it was the suprisingly good chardonnay and the half bag of lo-fat potato chips (no olestra!) that put me in the mood, but I had to tell you how much I enjoyed the new SPY. Especially and most of all the "Loyal Flush"—I actually said "Wow!" when I finished it.

The chardonnay? I don't think so. The article just got to me, and it was spot on. I also loved the rock 'n' roll stuff—all of it—as well as the "Sitcom Jews" piece. Yes! But the "Loyalty" thang? Yeah. Wow. Keep it coming.

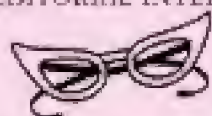
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## This Month's Gang of Four

### Gary Rosenberger

Gary Rosenberger's ("Be Young, Have Fun, Watch Chickens Die," p. 66) journalism career and poultry holocausts have crossed paths before: His first publishing job found him editing fried chicken recipes for *Good Housekeeping*. His pork record is no better, as he spent one full summer in college castrating unsuspecting pigs in South Dakota. At least his résumé has seen some improvement, as he has subsequently written for the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *L.A. Times*, and *United Press International*.



### Michael Dougan

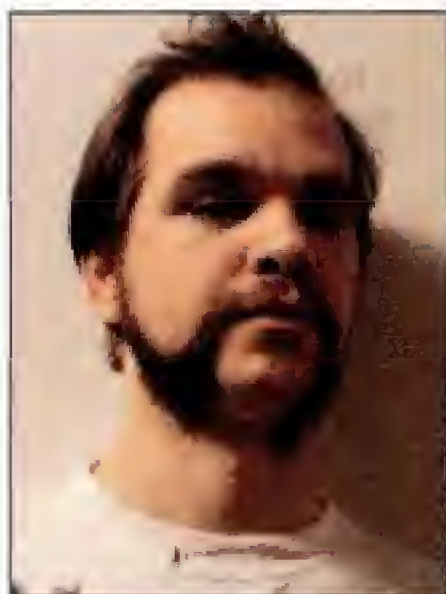
Seattle resident Michael Dougan ("You Don't Know Dick," p. 21) notes, "With every breast and penis I doodle for SPY, I feel like I'm taking one step closer to that Pulitzer podium." One small step for journalism, Michael; one giant step for deviant doodling fans. Michael is the author of two cartoon compilations (*East Texas: Tales from Behind the Pine Curtain* and *I Can't Tell You Anything*), a regular *L.A. Weekly* strip ("Crackerbox"), and an animated short (*The Dangwoods*). A SPY contributor for more than two years, he likens the backbreaking labor of cartooning to "going on a coffee break and never coming back."

### David Andrews

David Andrews ("The SPY 100," p. 32) is one of the only residents of New York's lovely Alphabet City with no portion of his genitalia pierced. He has worked on staff at Chicago's *In These Times* and Washington State's *Columbia Basin Herald*, covering Kmart grand openings and cryptozoological sightings. David enjoys freelancing from his new apartment for one simple reason: "I can interview people in the nude." David has



been SPY's editor at large for the past year, and take it from us: the use of the word "large" is no coincidence.



### Thorsten Gritschke

Thorsten Gritschke ("SPY's Best Bets," p. 56) arrived in America from Germany five years ago. Fascinatingly, at the time his name was Tony Johnson, but immigration officials "Ellis Island-a-sized" it to, of all things, *Thorsten Gritschke* to "make it sound more German," whatever that means. When he is not collecting traffic tickets on SPY photo shoots, Thorsten makes films. His *Motorcycle Madness II* was featured in the 1996 Chicago Underground Film Festival, and his script *F.O.N.K.E.Y. Sandwich* recently was runner-up in Nickelodeon's 1996 Script-A-Thon. He also actively pursues interests that will help keep him from being deported. "My outside may be German, but inside I'm pure funk."







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# Light





# Ha

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# Happy Holidays

NOVEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DEC

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Abolitionist John Brown hanged in 1859 for his raid on Harper's Ferry.	3 At a 1979 concert by The Who in Cincinnati, 11 fans are trampled to death.	4	5	6 Munitions ship, <i>Mont Blanc</i> , explodes off Halifax, 1917, killing thousands.	7 Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, 1941, killing 2,409.
8 John Lennon murdered in New York City, 1980.	9	10	11 Explosion of fireworks in Mexico City, 1989, kills 68.	12 Troop train derailed in Modane France, 1917, killing 543.	13 "Brown Death" smog in London, England, 1952, kills 160.	14
15	16 In 1836, the New York City fire destroys 600 buildings.	17	18 Typhoon in Philippines sinks three allied destroyers in 1944, 1000 lives lost.	19	20	21 Joseph Stalin, genocidal Soviet dictator, born in Gorky, Georgia, 1879.
22	23 Managua earthquake of 1972 kills 10,000.	24 "Fire!" yelled in a packed Michigan theater, 1913, kills 73.	25 City of Darwin, Australia devastated by Cyclone Tracy, 1974.	26	27 In 1979, Russia invades Afghanistan.	28 Earthquake in Sicily, 1908. More than 100,000 killed.
29 Ashtabula, Ohio, bridge collapses, 1876, killing 82.	30 Davy Jones of Monkees born in Manchester, England, 1945.	31				



# The Fine Print

by Roger Ziegler

## "Sometimes I Feel Like Killing My Wife"

Could that whole messy O. J. Simpson thing have been avoided? SPY thinks so. It turns out that the Hertz rental car company requires potential employees to undergo, among other tests, a written psychological evaluation. In this "Employee Safety Inventory," each candidate for a position at Hertz must answer 98 scientifically designed questions by checking one of six boxes ranging from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree." The test is presumably intended to be a last line of defense against having your rental car delivered by a potential murderer.

What follows is an incomplete list of Hertz's actual questions. Determine for yourself if some rent-a-shrink was fast asleep when Simpson turned in his test, or whether Hertz quite liked the idea of having a wife-beating psycho on the team:

- I have read the instructions and am willing to answer each question as truthfully as possible.
- I enjoy having a good time at all costs.
- I feel full of energy most of the time.
- I sometimes feel resentful

# Ataturk, Let's Do Lunch, Babe

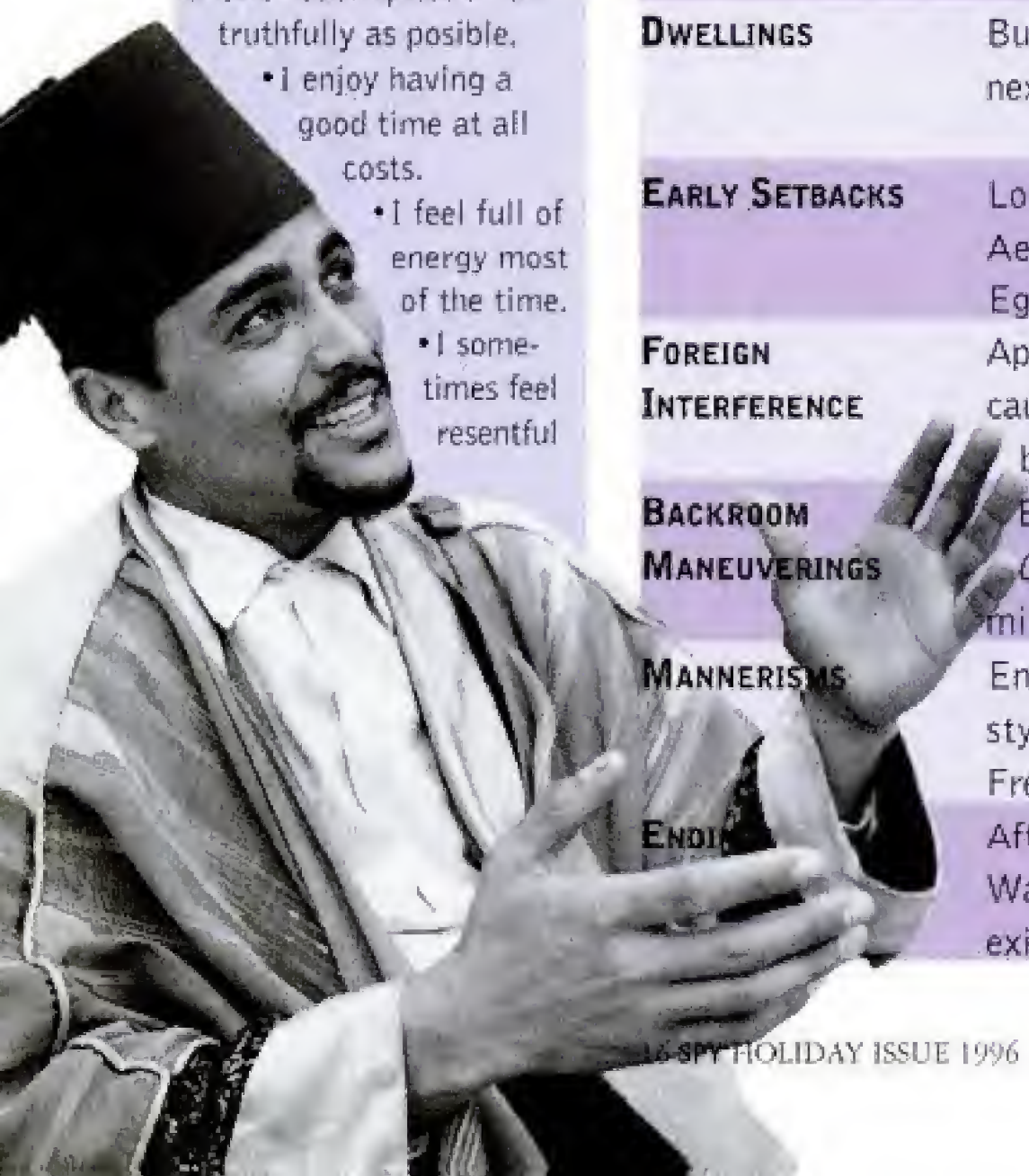
## Fez Dispensers & Ten Percenters

*Ishtar's* not Constantinople

The original Young Turks led a bloody revolution and ruled the Ottoman Empire. The enfants terribles of Hollywood's Creative Artists Agency—themselves known as Young Turks!—sit in Mike Ovitz's old office. And there are more similarities between the Aegeans and the Agents!—*Jo Samosa*



	OTTOMAN EMPIRE	CAA EMPIRE
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	Humble origins. Peasant families.	Humble origins. CAA mailroom.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Commander in chief Enver Bey schooled at apparatchik training ground of Military Staff College in Constantinople.	Talent agent Jay Moloney schooled at apparatchik training ground of USC Film School in South Central Los Angeles.
<b>GROUP COMPOSITION</b>	Tight-knit cadre representing various departments of the Turkish civil service.	Tight-knit cadre representing actors and directors in the Hollywood hierarchy.
<b>TEMPERAMENT</b>	Ruthless. In a fit of rage, Enver Bey once concluded a meeting by shooting his defense minister dead.	Ruthless. In a fit of rage, agent Doc O'Connor once concluded a tennis match by throwing his racket across the court.
<b>EMPIRE</b>	Young Turks inherited a once all-powerful but badly decaying realm.	Young Turks inherited a once all-powerful but badly decaying agency.
<b>RISE TO POWER</b>	Displaced aging Sultan Abdülhamid, promising to reinvigorate aging empire.	Succeeded aging überagent Mike Ovitz, promising to reinvigorate aging talent firm.
<b>MARRIAGE</b>	Enver Bey wed to royal Ottoman princess.	Agent Brian Lourd fathered child of <i>Star Wars's</i> Princess Leia.
<b>DWELLINGS</b>	Built luxurious palaces on the Bosphorus, next to palace of deposed sultan.	Agent Richard Lovett occupied luxurious office of former president, Ron Meyer, who jumped to MCA.
<b>EARLY SETBACKS</b>	Lost colonies of Bulgaria, Salonika, Crete, Aegean Islands, Tripoli, Cyprus, and Egypt, among others.	Lost clients Sylvester Stallone, Alec Baldwin, Steven Seagal, Kevin Costner, and Barbra Streisand, among others.
<b>FOREIGN INTERFERENCE</b>	Apprehension with the Young Turks' rule causes Great Britain to cancel battleship building contract.	Apprehension with the Young Turks' rule causes Coca-Cola to pull advertising contract.
<b>BACKROOM MANEUVERINGS</b>	Enver Bey smuggled German warships <i>Goeben</i> and <i>Breslau</i> through Dardanelles minefield, thus eluding the British fleet.	Richard Lovett smuggled actor Hugh Grant out of the Four Seasons Hotel following his lewd conduct arrest.
<b>MANNERISMS</b>	Enver Bey affected Prussian accent and style, often posing before portraits of Frederick the Great.	Agents often affect Party Boy accents and styles. Lovett posed naked for bachelorette-party photo.
<b>ENDING</b>	After being deposed at conclusion of World War I, elite Young Turks died in pauper exile.	Huge Tele-TV deal collapses; Moloney goes to drug rehab for fourth time; agency in disarray.





## Please Don't Feed the Alligators!

# Big-House Berlitz

A guide for prisoners-to-be

**H**ollywood bad boys like Robert Downey, Jr.—who got arrested three times in *one month* last year—seem to greet the prospect of going to jail with about as much reverential terror as they do a trip to a nice restaurant. But if Jr. and Co. are entertaining any illusions that a “blanket party” is where

### FOR THE BOYZ

**Alligators:** Apocryphal creatures that keep timid inmates from showering.

**A-1 Sauce:** Blood.

**Bandit:** Someone who checks out men's buttocks in the shower.

**Blister:** An “out” and active homosexual.

**Copping a Deuce:** Trying to squirm one's way out of trouble.

**Feeding the Alligators:** Masturbating in the showers.

**Feeding the Fish:** Masturbating on the toilet.

**Gunslingers:** Sexually aggressive prisoners made to wear hot-pink uniforms to shame them out of masturbating in front of female guards.

**House Mouse:** A *blister* who never comes out of his cell.

**Killing Alligators:** Stomping in the shower to show new inmates it's safe to enter.

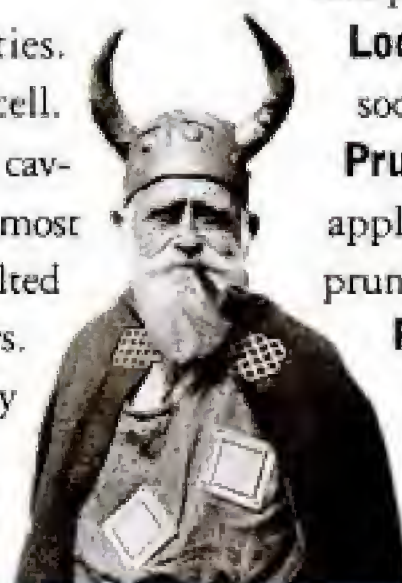
**Notspitals:** Prisoner's medical facilities.

**On the Hammer:** Sitting in a lockup cell.

**Slamming:** Storing weapons in one's anal cavity to hide them from authorities. The most popular weapon is a toothbrush that's melted under a lighter and set with two razors.

**Tray Monster:** Someone who greedily eats from others' trays.

**Viking:** Someone who has a dirty cell.



THE PRINT CONTINUED

when I do not get my way.

- I am easily distracted when working.
- Whether I get injured at work or not is a matter of fate, chance, or luck.
- My life and career have been one crisis after another for me.
- I prefer to have an exciting, unpredictable life.
- Thinking about everything that might happen to me at work makes me nervous.
- I prefer to have new and exciting experiences even if they are frightening or dangerous.
- There are too many unfair laws that people must follow.
- I sometimes feel that life is too troublesome.
- On occasion I have taken advantage of someone.
- I enjoy taking risks in life.
- I occasionally like to do my own thing at work instead of always following company rules.
- I probably like to fight more than others.
- When I am angry about something, it usually is not long before I am in a good mood again.
- Experienced workers do not need safety training.
- I have sometimes done dangerous things just for the thrill of it.
- I always stop and think things over before I do something that could get me in trouble with the law.
- I sometimes go weeks where I do not care about anything at work.
- I am always courteous, even to people who are disagreeable.

- I can avoid getting injured at work if I am careful and avoid potential dangers.
- For me, avoiding accidents is a matter of luck.
- I like “wild” parties where people will do anything to have a good time.

girls do their friends' hair and chew the fat about cellulite, they should probably read on before hitting the exercise yard. As will soon be revealed, Shaquille O'Neal's vaunted ability to “slam” a two-liter bottle of Pepsi is probably not something he wants to brag about.—*Michael D. Nauton*

### AND FOR THE LADIES

**Blanket Party:** Covering a sleeping prisoner with a blanket and pummeling/knifing her.

**Cheese Eater:** A snitch. The accused will find cheese crumbs in her bunk and should brace herself for a surprise *blanket party*.

**Courtesy Knock:** Rapping the table twice with the knuckles before leaving the dinner table. Failure to do so is a clear sign of disrespect.

**Diana and Lisa:** The former is the name of a low-grade shampoo and the latter a similarly low-grade pink soap.

**Feeding the Warden:** Taking a dump.

**Gump:** A homosexual male guard, considered harmless by the women.

**Having a Hard-On for Someone:** Constantly harassing a prisoner.

**Leg Rider:** An inmate who kisses up to authorities and powerful prisoners.

**Lock-in-a-Sock:** A combination lock inside a tube sock, used as a weapon.

**Pruno:** An effective after-dinner cordial made from apple or grape juice, yeast, sugar, water, rice, and prunes that is allowed to ferment for three days.

**Putting Water on It:** Flushing the toilet with every new “deposit” as a courtesy to your cellmate.

**Shanking:** Assaulting someone with a blunt or sharp object. Often used in a *blanket party*.



## Cheap Cherokee?

# Kathie Lee: Indian Gifford

**A**ctually his [Kathie Lee's father's] grandmother definitely didn't come over on a boat. She was already here, a full-blooded Native American from North Carolina. That's the legend, anyway. But we've never nailed down exactly what tribe she was from. I was told all my life I was part Cherokee. Then it was Crow. The latest is Blackfoot.” —*From I Can't Believe I Said That! by Kathie Lee Gifford*



- There have been times when I was jealous of the good fortune of others.
- I often cannot sleep because there are too many things on my mind.
- In the past, I have been tempted to break a law I did not really believe in.
- Some jobs are so dangerous that there is no way to avoid accidents and injuries.
- With my luck, I will probably have an accident in the near future.
- I like to do things that scare or shock others.
- If I get really upset, I cannot just forget about the problem and go on with other things like some people.
- People who think they know everything really make me mad.
- I feel unmotivated to work much of the time.
- Maybe I overreact sometimes, but little things at work can really get on my nerves.
- I sometimes enjoy being with fun-loving people who engage in risky activities.
- Lately, my outlook on life has changed for the worse.
- Unfortunately, most things that are enjoyable are also illegal or immoral.
- I guess I have a "short fuse" when other people do something that annoys me.
- I sometimes think of hitting someone who really deserves it.
- I sometimes try to get even, rather than forgive and forget.
- I do not care what happens to me at work or in life.
- The odds are in favor of me having an accident at work in the near future.
- I often get into trouble since I am "in the wrong place at the wrong time."
- Sometimes I wonder what else could go wrong with my life or career.
- I answered all items truthfully.

naked city

## P.C. Playthings

## Toys "R" Us? Try Toys 'RU-486!

My two moms went to the toystore and all I got was this lousy...

**W**hen buying gifts for their offspring, many aging baby-booming breeders look for toys that reflect their hazy Haight-Ashbury political ideals. They may be disappointed, however, by capitalism's offerings. Many manufacturers took a stab at politically correct toys this year but couldn't get quite the right "vibe."—Todd Seavey

**Toy:** G.I. Joe Eco-Soldiers action figures

**Concept:** These warriors have names like Clean Sweep, Ozone, Sludge Viper, Toxo-Zombie, and Deep Six (latter comes with dolphin!).

**P.C. Spin:** Enviro-monickers raise children's ecological awareness.

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Armored vehicles such as Joe's "Septic Tank" offer violence and pollution as problem-solving methods.

**Toy:** Little African Princess doll

**Concept:** "Remove her pretty African Princess outfit—and discover the cool contemporary girl underneath!"

**P.C. Spin:** "Kenya: Growing Up Proud!"

**Disillusioning Flaw:** "Hip" inner clothing an implicit endorsement of assimilationism.

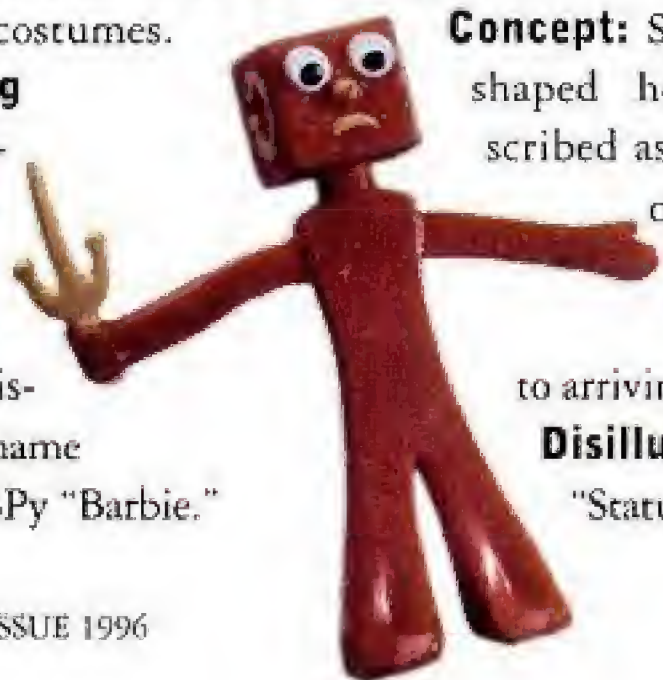
**Toy:** Barbie dolls

**Concept:** Special Kenyan, Indian, Japanese, Ghanaian, Mexican, Norwegian, Dutch, German, Irish, Native American, Chinese, and Polynesian versions of everyone's favorite babe.

**P.C. Spin:** Varied skin tones and multicultural costumes.

**Disillusioning**

**Flaw:** No variation in facial structure. No matter where her passport is issued from, her name is still the WASPy "Barbie."



**Toy:** Tony's Wonder Bone

**Concept:** "Amazing interactive video learning system" shaped like a dog bone.

**P.C. Spin:** Gives bourgeois tykes a taste of poorer nations' harsh "toy reality."

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Spending hours pressing Tony's Wonder Bone may warp sexual development.

**Toy:** Littlest Pet Shop plastic animals

**Concept:** Cute characters, such as "Royal Bombay Kitty with Kitty Throne."

**P.C. Spin:** Some animals hail from distant nations!

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Kitty is a monarchist.

**Toy:** Hot Wheels Jungle Ranger

**Concept:** "Army truck that transforms into an Amazon rain forest!"

**P.C. Spin:** Youngsters' love of violence converted to budding eco-enthusiasm.

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Nature harnessed for covert military action.

**Toy:** Hot Wheels Liberty Base playset

**Concept:** Statue of Liberty-shaped headquarters, described as "last stronghold of freedom."

**P.C. Spin:** Symbol of hope to arriving immigrants.

**Disillusioning Flaw:** "Statue's face unfolds to



**Honorable sensei Gumby kicks some multi-culti butt.**

reveal missile-launching bazooka!"

**Toy:** Gumby Ninja Playset

**Concept:** TV's lovable green clay boy becomes culturally diverse assassin.

**P.C. Spin:** Japanese screens clue kids in to simple beauty of Asian lifestyle.

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Traditional Japanese *sai* sword wielded to devastating effect by Gumby's mortal enemy, Blockhead.

**Toy:** VW Combi van

**Concept:** Scale-model hippie vehicle.

**P.C. Spin:** Covered with painted butterflies and slogans such as "Flower Powered" and "Peace & Love."

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Encourages fossil fuel consumption and production of "greenhouse" gases.

**Toy:** Lava Lick "liquid candy"

**Concept:** Lava lamp-shaped bottles contain drinkable syrupy snack.

**P.C. Spin:** Venerates the 1960s.

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Flashbacks.

**Toy:** Truffles the Bear

**Concept:** "Truffles for President: The Only Bearable Candidate."

**P.C. Spin:** Charming bear underscores inadequacies of human politicians.

**Disillusioning Flaw:** Truffles will sleep with *anyone*.



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## Podium Pleasers

# Crazy Congressmen and Their Large PosSES

The distinguished gentleman from Ohio would like to say "Whassup" to his boyz



**B**eing an elected representative is a curious position. A creature of your constituency, your job security pretty much hinges on how many local babies you can kiss. Or how many butts. And so while debates may rage on about welfare reform, terrorist bombings, escalating tensions in the Middle East, and the unstable peace in Bosnia, congressmen (and women) always have time to send a shout-out to some of their homies.—*Brian Taylor*



## THE RUTLES ARCHAEOLOGY

featuring the single and video "Shangri-La"

On the heels of the Beatles **Anthology III**, The Rutles unveil **Archaeology**, a new album of 16 rare and never-before-released Rutles songs, culled from the vast archives of Rutles material. And a reunion tour is rumored.

Produced by Neil Innes and Steve James  
Executive Producer: Martin Lewis

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Offered congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. James J. McDermott of Massachusetts on their 50th wedding anniversary.

—*Rep. Peter Blute, MA*

Suggested other members of Congress read a paper entitled "Thoughts on Motherhood."

—*Rep. Henry Hyde, IL*

Proudly announced groundbreaking of the Brass Mill Center Mall in Waterbury, Connecticut.

—*Rep. Gary Franks, CT*

Congratulated Bando Manufacturing, recipient of a "supplier quality" award from Honda.

—*Sen. Mitch McConnell, KY*

Congratulated the town of Pelham, New Hampshire, on its 250th anniversary.

—*Sen. Robert Smith, NH*

Also congratulated the town of Jefferson, New Hampshire, on its 200th anniversary.

—*Sen. Robert Smith, NH*

Paid tribute to the Western Springs Garden Club on its 70th anniversary.

—*Rep. William Lipinski, IL*

Saluted the Girl Scout Gold Award winners.

—*Sen. Mitch McConnell, KY*

Honored Hedgesville High School as it reached the finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition.

—*Sen. Jay Rockefeller, WV*

Announced that Armstrong Cable is sponsoring the Senate Classic Golf Tournament.

—*Rep. Philip English, PA*

Praised Bettcher Industries of Vermilion, Ohio, the recipient of the 1995 award for "Excellence in Productivity Improvement."

—*Rep. Paul Gillmor, OH*

Reminded members of Congress what they accomplished the previous day.

—*Rep. Newt Gingrich, GA*

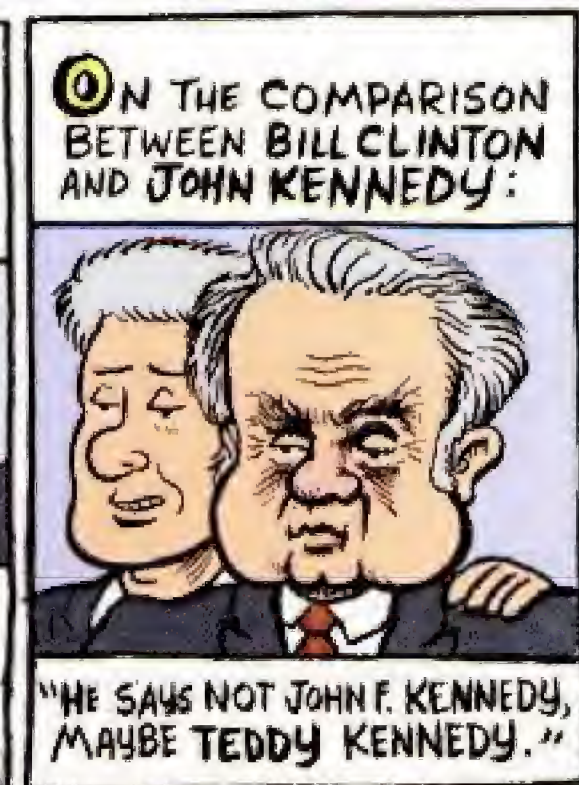
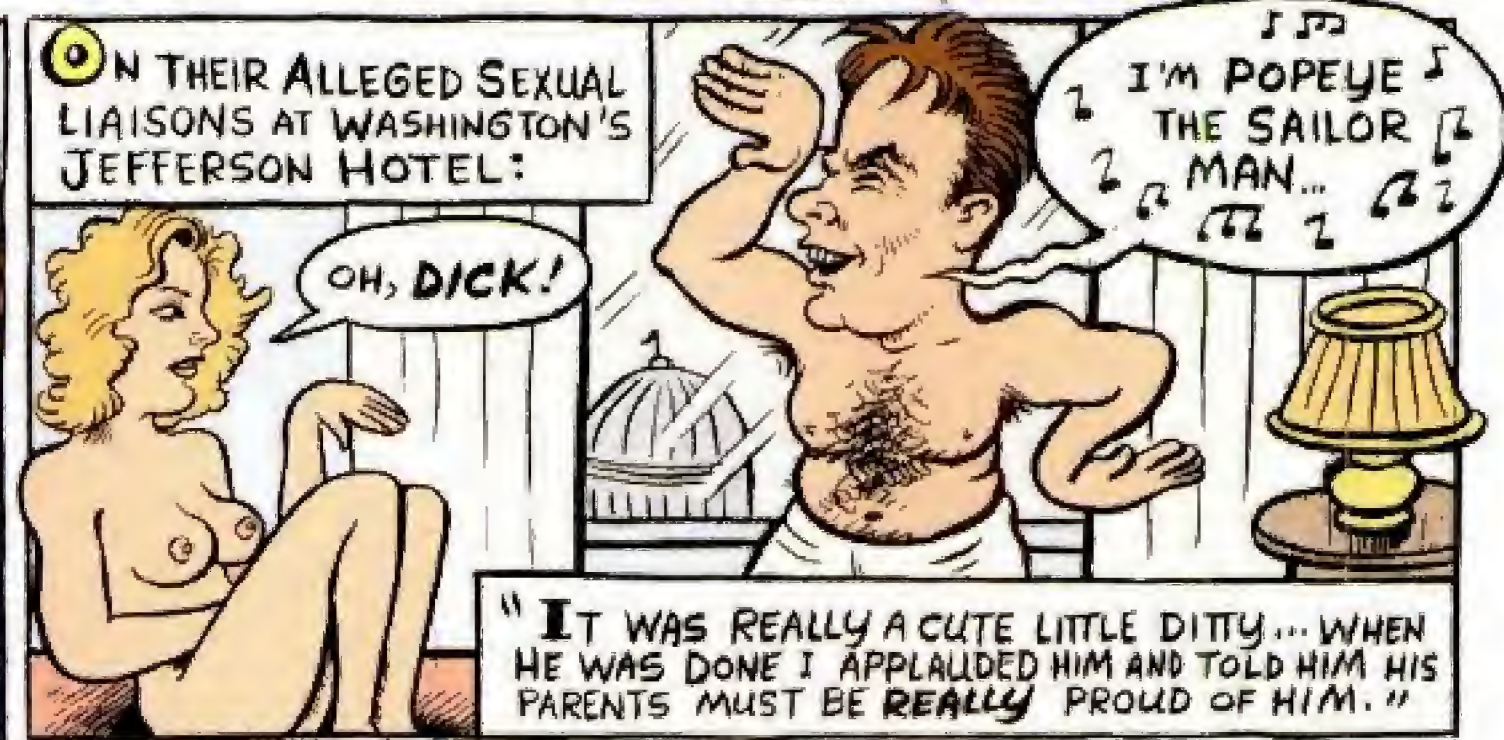
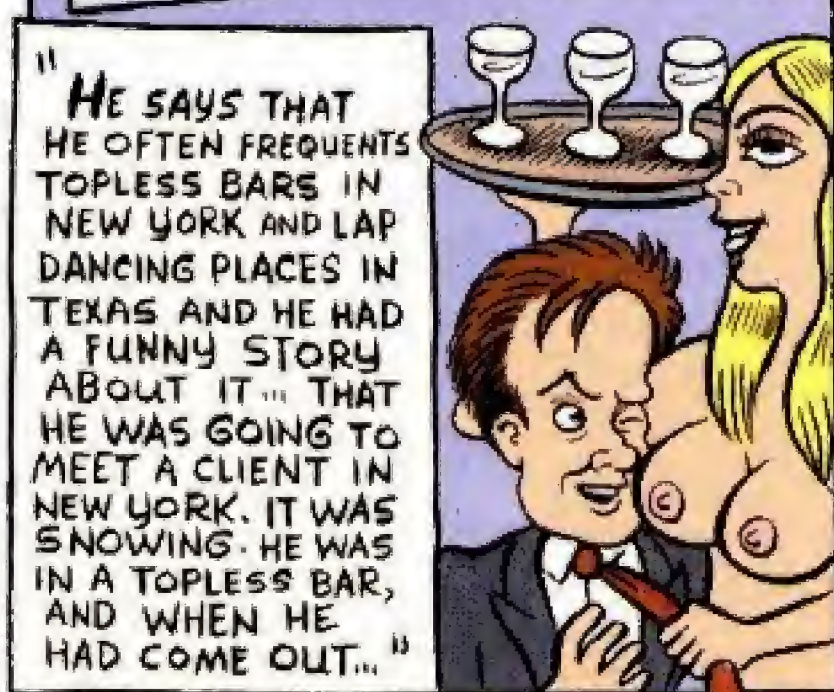


# YOU DON'T KNOW DICK

## LIKE I KNOW DICK

SHERRY ROWLANDS  
TALKS ABOUT  
DICK MORRIS\*

BY  
MICHAEL  
DOUGAN



\* ALL SCENES AND DIALOGUE TAKEN FROM ACTUAL QUOTES



## Separated at Birth?



Overprincipled loner  
Charles Bronson...



...and Reds principal  
owner Marge Schott?



Grand Ole Opry singer  
Wynonna Judd...



...and grating Oprah  
watcher Katey Sagal?



Federal bill passer  
Christopher Dodd...



...and former Bills passer  
Jack Kemp?



IBM-compatible Bill  
Gates...



...and R.E.M.'s forgettable  
Mike Mills?



Not-a-dame belle ringer  
Nathan Lane...



...Notre Dame bell ringer  
Quasimodo?

## Cabbie Genius

# Foreign Correspondents Hail Taxis for Quotes

Tired of taciturn despots? Call a cab!

**A**merican cabbies are great, but let's face it: if your taxi went flying over a cliff, chances are your driver would *still* end up going round in circles. Ironical, really, because if globe-trotting reporters are to be believed, taxi drivers in *other* countries are perceptive geniuses whose political views are more valuable than those of, say, the country's premier. Why is it unethical to dump \$100,000 on Amy Fisher for her life story, when spinning a Burkina Faso feature out of a two-dollar cab ride to the Ouagadougou Hilton gets you a Pulitzer?—*Andrew Wheat*

► On the 1992 South African referendum: " 'Treurnicht doesn't want freedom for us,' said Patrick Sechibele, 52, a stocky, chain-smoking taxi driver." Christopher Wren, *New York Times*

► On keeping tourists happy in The Gambia: "As my taxi driver put it, 'After last year's very bad season, everyone is aware that tourists bring in money and must not be harmed.' " Melissa de Villiers, *Daily Mail*

► On Algeria's status quo: " 'Algerians still go to work and school...and,' said my taxi driver, 'I can still drink beer in Bab el-Oued.' " David Hirst, *The Guardian*

► On skin flicks: "My taxi driver...is an unhappy man, given to...recounting how much better things were under Nicolae Ceausescu and spitting when he pronounces the word 'democracy.' But he became suddenly animated at the mention of the [pornographic] movie. 'At last,' he exclaimed, 'something about democracy that I can enjoy!' " Thomas Carothers, *International Herald-Tribune*

► On the Final Solution in Poland: "My taxi driver was ex-

tremely jovial...We flew through the hilly countryside in his Mercedes while he talked about what a great car a Mercedes is. 'Yes, the perfect way to go to Auschwitz,' I said. He slammed the dashboard good-humoredly, repeated the joke, and laughed." Mark Kurlansky, *Harpers Magazine*

► On anarchy in Russia: "In the late 1960s, most things were against the law. But as my driver informed me last week, 'There is no law in Russia today.' To prove it, he steered his rattling Zhiguli over the curb and aimed it down the icy sidewalk." Michael Johnson, *Moscow Times*

► On Nigerian trash: "Heaps of garbage lay piled along the curb, residue of a month-long sanitation strike. 'This city is hell,' my driver mumbled." Joshua Mammer, *Ottawa Citizen*

► On Kurds vs. Kurds in northern Iraq: " 'The people are very happy that Barzani is in Erbil,' said Hekmat Hares, a taxi driver and Barzani loyalist. ... 'Talabani used to kill the Kurds; we don't kill the Kurds.' " Douglas Jehl, *New York Times*





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# Komputer Korner

## I Just Called to Say "I'm Stupid"

SPY's pranksters push the buttons of 1-800 cyber-Samaritans

The reason there were so many tortured geniuses in the past is that in those days, when you bought something, you either had to figure out how to use the thing just by poking at it or you had to read the instruction book. Today, thankfully, we have a whole class of people with handy 1-800 phone numbers whose job it is to be infinitely

patient with those of us too stupid even to operate the little piece of string that holds up our pajamas. They're like saints, these computer helpline staffers, universally adored and appreciated. But who will help the helpers? No one. The helpers must help themselves. All SPY can do is give them a hard time.—Bruno Maddox, Dan Bova, and Carrie Cooper

### AMERICA ONLINE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

(Music played while you're on hold:  
None)

**AOL:** Hi there, this is Dave.

Let's see here now, are you using  
Macintosh, Windows, or DOS?

**SPY:** Um, I'm not exactly sure.

I think it's DOS. I saw AOL on  
TV and I just got my CD in the  
mail this morning and I CAN  
NOT make it work.

**AOL:** Okay. Oh, you got the  
CD ROM?

**SPY:** Yeah.

**AOL:** Okay, what's on your  
screen right now?

**SPY:** Um...just some snow.

**AOL:** Oh really...some kind of  
distortion on the screen?

**SPY:** Yeah, yeah, there's some-  
thing flickering through. I  
think it might be a baseball  
game.

**AOL:** Oh, wild, okay. This is on the com-  
puter screen?

**SPY:** Yeah, this is on the TV part.

**AOL:** Oh, oh, so you have a television on  
there also, as part of the computer?

**SPY:** Yeah, I have the TV part and I have the  
typewriter part and the CD is in the CD part.  
It looks like it does on the commercial. I've got  
the typewriter part and the TV part and they're  
next to each other, and I just uh, for some rea-  
son, I feel like I'm missing something.

**AOL:** Yeah, there might be something we're  
missing. Tell you what: I'll give you another  
number and they'll help you get that CD  
ROM hooked up to the computer.

**SPY:** Which part is the "computer"? Is that

the typewriter or the TV?

**AOL:** Uh, there should actually be a box  
that's next to all that. That's generally how  
I've seen it. There's like a box with a bunch of  
plugs with ports on the back.

**SPY:** A "box?" Uh, I think we might  
have...I just took a typewriter and, uh, put it  
up to my TV.

**AOL:** Oh, okay.

**SPY:** Yeah, it's a typewriter I had in college.

**AOL:** I see, I see. It might just be a word  
processor. I know if it's a word processor it's  
not going to have the hardware that we would  
need to actually use the America Online pro-  
gram. You just put paper through it?

**SPY:** Yeah.

**AOL:** Okay, yeah, it sounds like we have a

word processor which has a micro  
processor inside of it. It's mainly  
just used for editing text, for when  
you're typing. But there's nothing  
in there to—

**SPY:** Right, I just type, and like  
the letter goes click and there's a  
letter on the paper. There's no little  
screen....

**AOL:** Oh, okay, yeah, then it might  
not even be a word processor, it  
might just be a typewriter. Yeah,  
we would for sure need a *computer*,  
uh, to use the system.

**SPY:** Oh, right. 'Cause I saw it on  
the commercial, it just looks like  
they have a typewriter and then  
there's the TV, and it's all going,  
they're just typing away.

**AOL:** Right, right.

**SPY:** I mean it *is* an electric type-  
writer, it's not like...an acoustic one.

**AOL:** Right, right, yeah, under-  
standably so, but still with that

there, that wouldn't be a device that we could  
use with the software. With this software, you  
would pretty much want a computer.

**SPY:** So, I have to go and get the special  
"box," yeah? Is that it? And then we're in  
business?

**AOL:** We would definitely want to get a com-  
puter, and once you have that, you're set to go.

**SPY:** I can't wait!

**AOL:** [brightly] Alrighty, thanks for calling.

### NETCOM'S MACINTOSH SUPPORT

(Music played while you're on hold: "Stand By Me")

**NETCOM:** Hello, my name is John. Can I  
have your user name please?

**SPY:** Uh, my user name? Uh, I don't think  
I have one yet.







**NO  
BULL**

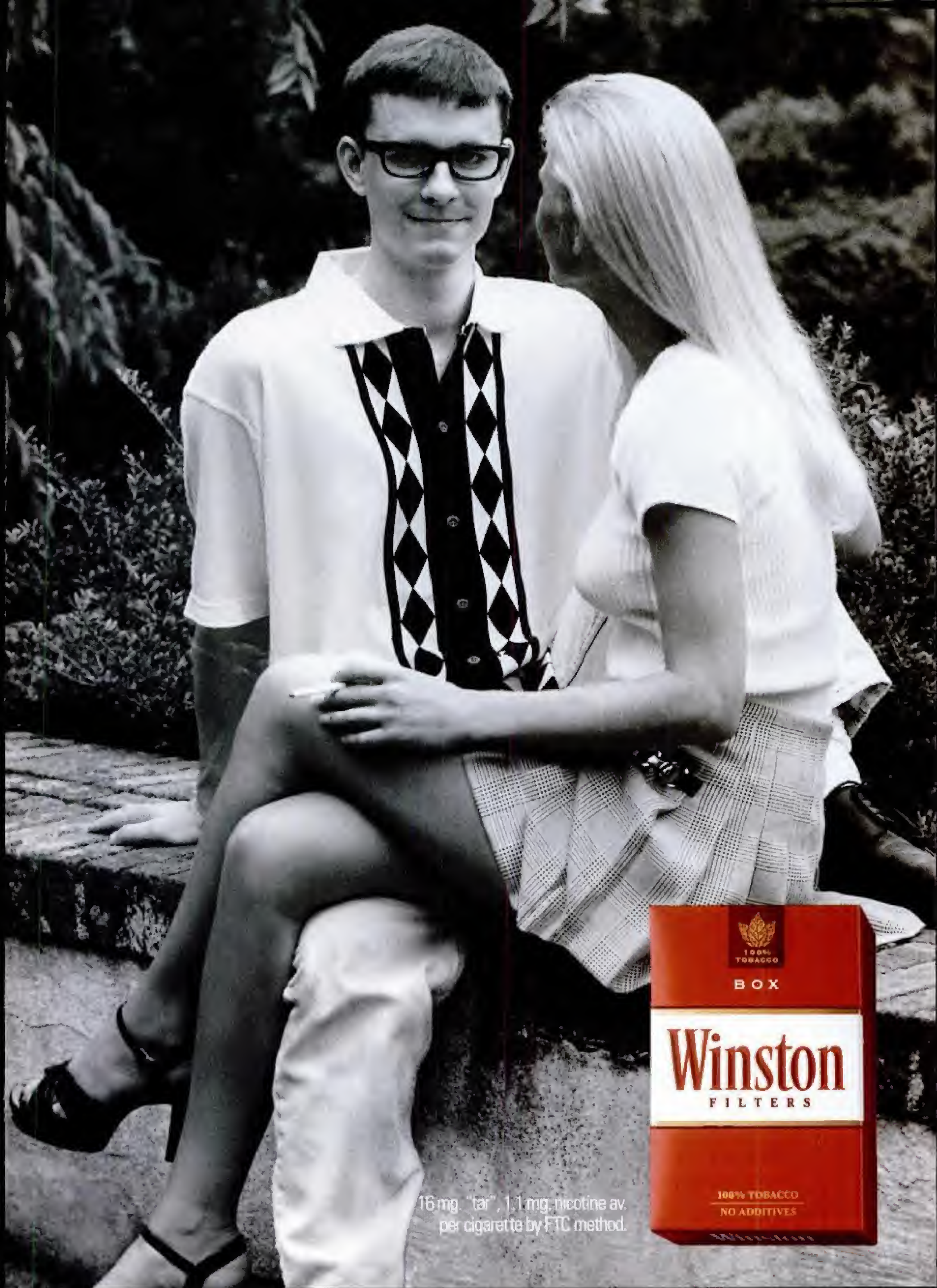


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**NETCOM:** How can I help you today?

**SPY:** Well, alright, I got this computer like two days ago and I was trying to "surf the web" yesterday, and everything on the screen just stopped, it just, nothing was happening. So I called this number and someone told me that the computer was frozen. So last night I wheeled the computer cart over near the fireplace to try to unfreeze it, and I wake up this morning and it's just ruined. Like the screen is blank, it doesn't work anymore.

**NETCOM:** Uh, you can't get it started or anything?

**SPY:** No, I mean I tried—the on switch is melted.

**NETCOM:** (long silence) Alright, so you can't even turn on your computer?

**SPY:** No, I mean, I don't know what kind of training or what kind of advice you guys give; he told me it was frozen, I put it right near the fireplace, and now it's just, now it's just goo.

**NETCOM:** (long pause) Alright, if it was frozen, that would have meant to turn it off and turn it on.

**SPY:** Turn it off and on? (angrily) I mean I called and the guy said it was frozen and it was easy to take care of, so I—he didn't say anything about that. He just said it was frozen. And when things are frozen, they're cold.

**NETCOM:** No, when a system is frozen it means it's locked up.

**SPY:** He didn't explain that. I don't know what his name was. He sounded like he was Italian. But I don't know what to do. It's ruined. It wasn't even mine, it was a friend's. I don't know how much these things cost, it's gotta be a hundred dollars. I mean, I called for your help and now it's ruined. Is there a way I can get compensation?

**NETCOM:** That...um...(very long pause) For something like that, that's—what did he tell you to do?

**SPY:** He said, "It's frozen. You gotta warm it back up or boot it up or something."

**NETCOM:** I could see him saying "boot it up," but as far as "warm it up"—

**SPY:** I think he said "warm it up."

**NETCOM:** Huh.

**SPY:** I mean the back is all gooey, there's wires hanging out...and stuff. I have a cat I'm worried about.

## 1-800-SOS-APPL

(Music played while you're on hold: Muzak version of "Margaritaville")

**APPLE:** This is Joe. Can I have your name and telephone number please?

**SPY:** Yeah, my name is Jenny and—

**APPLE:** Which Mac do you have, Jenny?

**SPY:** Power?

**APPLE:** Okay, how can I help you?

**SPY:** I was just trying to check the spelling of this paper I wrote, and a box came up on the screen that said it couldn't find the spell file or something? So I was wondering if you could help me figure out if it's kind of like the blackish one, or if it's got anything to do with these wires to the left. Do you know what I mean?

**APPLE:** Er...you're in a word processing application and you need to spell check and it's not finding the dictionary or whatever?

**SPY:** Yeah, like, you know, the spell file? So I'm, like, looking for the file.

**APPLE:** Okay, most applications are going to have it in the folder that the application is stored in. So what application are you in?

**SPY:** Word 6.

**APPLE:** So when you select the spell thing, does it bring up a window that lets you kind of maneuver around and try to find that file? What's on your screen?

**SPY:** Well, I'm kind of maneuvering around in, like, the backish part. The screen...it totally just says that they can't find the file, and so I guess I just undid the back of it. Do you know what I mean?

**APPLE:** The computer?

**SPY:** Yeah, and I'm thinking it's probably back here somewhere, the file. So the computer's on right now.

**APPLE:** Uh-huh.

**SPY:** And there's some wires and stuff back here.

**APPLE:** So, you took the back off the computer?

**SPY:** Yeah.

**APPLE:** Okay, I'll tell you what. First of all, go ahead and put the back on, or whatever you've taken off. Put that back on there.

**SPY:** OUCH, Jesus! No, see, it's still on and I keep on touching this strange metal part and it's really—

**APPLE:** Okay, go ahead and turn it off first.

**SPY:** See, like, I don't know. Like I really just feel like it's probably back here somewhere.

**APPLE:** See, the file's going to be stored on your hard drive—it's not actually going to be *physically* back there anywhere.

**SPY:** Well. It's really not quite that simple, because basically my paper's really due in a couple of hours and I need to just check the—OUCH!—the spelling and I'm trying to find this file.

**APPLE:** Right.

**SPY:** But you're right, I did undo the back of the computer looking for the file. I pretty much pulled out a number of wires and I was thinking it would be back here.

**APPLE:** Okay, well, it's actually not going to be back there. Go ahead and turn the computer off while you're pulling stuff around. I don't want you to fry yourself, much less damage your computer.

**SPY:** Huh.

**APPLE:** We can find it. If it's installed on your computer, we can find it.

**SPY:** OUCH! Oh! Oh my God! I think it just went blank!...Do you think I lost my paper?

**APPLE:** Well, if you haven't saved it recently, you might have.

**SPY:** Save...save. Oh man. Okay. I'm just going to reflip this switch here. Okay, it made this kind of funny sound, but I think it's back on. Oh weird. There's all these lines. Alright. I'm just gonna check out the back again.

**APPLE:** I'll tell you what. The back is completely useless for us right now. It's not going to be any good trying to find a file on the computer there. Can you get back to the front of the computer? Go to your mouse....You said you are in Word 6?

**SPY:** Yeah.

**APPLE:** Okay, open up your hard drive. And let's find the Word 6 file, wherever you've got Word 6 stored.

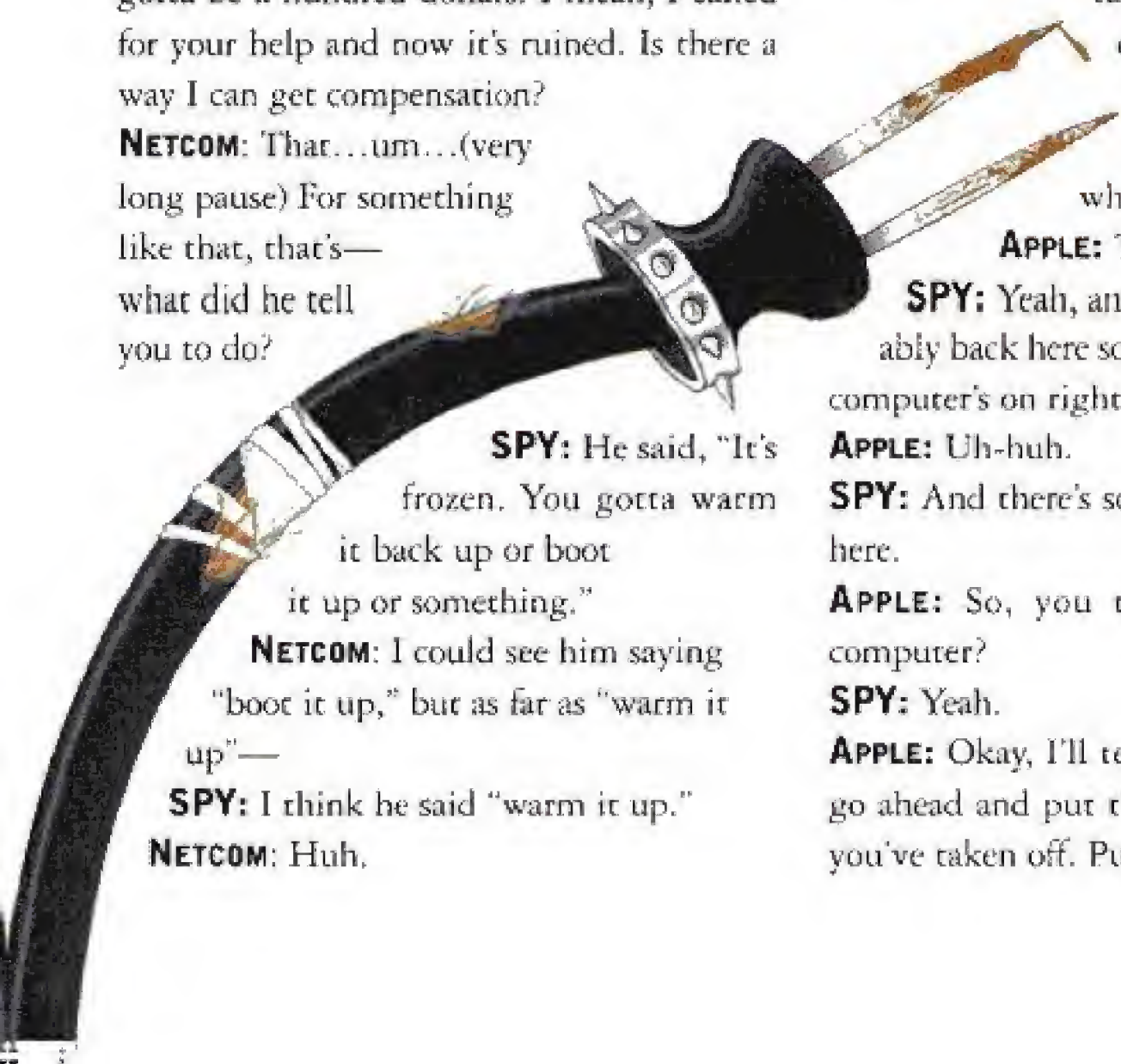
**SPY:** Oh. Wait! I think I found it. I think I found the file.

**APPLE:** Okay.

**SPY:** I'm just going to pull this part out here—

**APPLE:** You're pulling something out of the computer?

**SPY:** The file. This is right. No, seriously, I think I found this part.





**APPLE:** Okay?

**SPY:** In the back. If I just pull out this one wire. Do you, is that right do you think?

**APPLE:** Yeah, that's the Microsoft Spell Checker wire file....Probably you don't want to be pulling on that.

## IBM PC HELP CENTER

*(Music played while on hold: "Jupiter Symphony")*

**IBM:** This is Antonio. May I have your model type, please?

**SPY:** Um, well, actually, I'm not in the same room as my computer right now.

**IBM:** Oh. Okay. I will need that information to open up a file for you, to be able to answer you properly. Is there any way I can get you closer to the computer?

**SPY:** Well, see, the...the thing is, when I got it, you know, everyone said that, like, computers are the "New Thing." "You should get into them." So I went out and I spent, you know, a lot of money on this thing.

**IBM:** Mm-hmm.

**SPY:** And, uh, ever since I got it, I don't know if something's wrong with this particular computer, but things are going weird in my house. Like, it was fine, and then one day I put in this disk, and it said, "This file is corrupted."

**IBM:** What disk, sir?

**SPY:** It was a disk my friend gave me that had uh...some psalms...from the Book of Paul.

**IBM:** [pause] Okay.

**SPY:** And it said it was "corrupted," and so I turned it off right away.

**IBM:** Uh-huh.

**SPY:** And ever since then, I mean, it's still plugged in and I don't know. Everything in my house is connected with electricity...my microwave doesn't really work and channel four is kind of coming in fuzzy now, and I...is this...

**IBM:** Related to the computer? It's just a box, sir.

**SPY:** But, um...

**IBM:** I mean, I understand what you're saying, but it's just a box.

**SPY:** But it's...I mean, it can't be coincidence. Yesterday the garage door almost shut on my boy.

**IBM:** Garage door...what?

**SPY:** I have an electric garage door, and my boy and his friend were playing out on the driveway, and the door almost shut on him. And, um, the lights go on and off.

**IBM:** Well, now wait a minute. There is a setting for the computer to come on automatically, you know that. Alright? This thing can come on by itself. It'll answer a phone and turn itself on automatically, it'll sense that. Right?

**SPY:** Yeah, but if it can do that, can it control other things?

**IBM:** Well, technically speaking, they're coming out with a package soon that'll be able to do that.

**SPY:** What if they... what if they gave me one by accident? I don't want that.

**IBM:** You haven't got it.

Trust me, you don't. Now, I'll entertain the thought with you. Okay? I'll entertain the thought with you. If it has been doing that somehow, you've got to find out how. Alright?

**SPY:** Uh-huh.

**IBM:** Everything's resolvable. Right?

**SPY:** Yeah.

**IBM:** Now, first thing's first, though. I do need you in front of the machine.

**SPY:** Uh, I don't know. Ever since it said the "corrupt" file...I just kind of ran away.

**IBM:** A corrupt file only means that the file's been messed up.

**SPY:** Uh-huh.

**IBM:** It's not legible. The computer says, "I can't read this."

**SPY:** Right, well, why wouldn't it be able to read the Bible?

**IBM:** No, it's not a question of the Bible, sir. Let's pretend I write on a page in ink. Alright? The fact that that happened to be the Bible is complete serendipity. It has nothing to do with it.

**SPY:** Serendipity?

**IBM:** Serendipity, yeah...by chance. Now, if I give you this piece of paper that I write, by

hand, in blue ink. Right? And I leave it in the rain. It's all smudgy, etc., etc., you can't read it anymore. And I give it to you to read. Can you read it? No. Right?

**SPY:** Well, how neat is your handwriting, though?

**IBM:** Exactly. Now you take a diskette. It messes up the file the same way the rain would mess up the ink. You put it into your computer and it won't read it anymore.

**SPY:** Well, my wife says there's a switch in the back.

**IBM:** Mm-hmm.

**SPY:** Is there like a Good-or-Bad switch?

**IBM:** No. I'm not sure what you're asking me here. A "Good-or-Bad" switch?

**SPY:** Is there like...I know you can program computers to be...different ways. Is there, like, an Evil switch?

**IBM:** (long pause) We're talking about an inanimate object, sir. This is a completely inanimate object that is no more intelligent than your average toaster. Sorry. Your toaster is more intelligent—it pops up by itself.

**SPY:** Right.

**IBM:** It can't have personality. It will not close your garage on your kids. Can't do that.

**SPY:** Okay.

**IBM:** It doesn't have a soul or anything like that.

**SPY:** Okay.

**IBM:** Okay?

**SPY:** Alright.

## APTIVA SUPPORT GROUP

*(Music played while you're on hold: "On and On")*

**APTIVA:** How are you, Mr. Gascoline, today?

**SPY:** Gascoigne. I'm very well, except I'm having some trouble with my Aptiva.

**APTIVA:** Oh, okay.

**SPY:** I've only had it for about an hour and I'm having trouble with the foot pedal, the thing with the ball and the buttons. Which way up is it meant to go?

**APTIVA:** Foot pedal...do you mean the mouse?

**SPY:** I don't think so, no. It's the...you put it on the ground, there's a string going from it to the computer, it has buttons on it and on one side it has a kind of rolling...ball.

**APTIVA:** And that came with the computer?

**SPY:** Yeah. It moves around the arrow on the screen.

**APTIVA:** Okay, this is the mouse.





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# Party Poop



Actress/starboffer **Winona Ryder** waxes nostalgic about the time *her* ear fell off. "Just get me to a hospital," begs stringy WASP **Gwyneth Paltrow**.

kd "all you can eat" lang (right) heads west to pan for chocolate. Culkinesque comedian **Ellen DeGeneres** (below) debuts her new line of wind-resistant AIDS ribbons.



Wizened crooner **Tony Bennett** (above) prepares to bridge the generation gap with a quick game of "That's Not Prosciutto!" Meanwhile, spunky bachelor **Prince Charles** (below) guards against mad cow disease before slipping someone a hot-beef injection.



Much-maligned real-estate mogul **Donald Trump** cowers at the stack of SPY "Party Poops" he's appeared in. **Al Pacino** wrestles with an oversize prop from his upcoming *Honey, I Shrunk the Rump*ed Italian Yankee Fan.





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# La Dolce Vita at *Details*

LAST MARCH, *DETAILS* contributing editor Chris Heath was on the campaign trail, chasing Dole, Buchanan, and other moribund Republican candidates through New Hampshire, Iowa, and other only quadrennially important locales. Editor in chief Joe Dolce had

conceived the unoriginal idea that Heath—his star writer and one of his few interesting scribes—file a monthly political report with a *Details* perspective. Whether that meant interviewing a nipple-clamped Dick Lugar at the Vault, no one could be sure, but Heath ran with it: “The way people of this generation think about the world is legitimate,” Heath, a 32-year-old Brit, bubbled to *Mediaweek*, explaining why *Details*’s openly superficial readership would care about his quixotic assignment.

But soon after Heath filed his first installment, he learned of a sharp change in the opinion polls: His capricious editor no longer liked the project for which Heath had spent the last several months preparing. Dolce suddenly decided that the series was too substantial for *Details*. So he killed it.

This was the last straw for Heath, who had helped define *Details*’s voice. Generally unhappy with the way Dolce had treated him, he sailed to *Details*’s archrival, *Rolling Stone*. Though Dolce tried to downplay the significance of Heath’s departure, it was a defining moment in Dolce’s irregular tenure as editor. “Joe had talked him into doing the story in the first place,” an insider told SPY. “Chris believed that if he didn’t quit, he would be admitting that he was a hack.”

Heath’s departure was only the beginning of La Dolce Vita. In a bizarre six-month period starting last March, the

magazine’s art director, music editor (the third under Dolce), fashion director, managing editor, and features editor all either quit or were fired. Then, in a Stalinesque purge, another key player—former executive editor David Keeps, second on the masthead—was demoted to the new position of West Coast editor and sent to Los Angeles. The two had been bitter rivals. “David was the soul of the magazine,” a colleague remarked, echoing a widely held sentiment at *Details*. “Now Dolce has to find a new emphasis.”

His emphasis seems to be visionless

mediocrity. According to observers inside and outside the magazine, *Details* is in leaderless disarray: “Everyone knows there is trouble,” says a contributor. “The magazine has had no positive contributions lately—it’s beating a dead horse. Anka and the Confessions read like self-parodies, and ‘World at Once’ [the news-oriented front-of-book section] was recently changed to ‘Filter,’ which is now about lifestyle. It’s lost its punch.” Even the noncreative grunt work is a nightmare: “Nothing seems to go right,” says another staffer, “month after month. Production at *Details* reminds me of the *Terminator*—it’s a monster that keeps coming back.” And, as Heath can attest, Dolce frustrates his staff with his frenetic indecisiveness. “The collective muttering under everyone’s breath,” fumes an insider, “is ‘Make up your fucking mind!’ ”

JOE DOLCE’S first 18 months at *Details*’s helm were relatively tranquil. “Dolce didn’t want to rock the boat at first,” an insider told SPY, “but then he suddenly made up his mind to kick ass.” It is perfectly acceptable that an editor would want to establish a rhythm and tone for his staff and his product. But Dolce’s moves were primarily self-benefiting, and only served to confuse and annoy his staff. “He spent a lot of money redoing his office in pastels, pink and green,” says one irked staffer. “It has a stark feel to it, severe lines, very modern. It wasn’t cheap and it took a long time.





Redoing it clogged the hallway so you had to wait in line to get to the fax machine."

Dolce's dilettantism doesn't help his reputation. "Dolce deals with the publisher and goes to parties," says another irritated staffer of Dolce's work habits. "He also travels to fashion shows in Europe—and comes back tanned. We are always having to make the 4:00 P.M. FedEx deadline for packages to France."

Even contributing writers who work from the sanity of their own homes are wary of Dolce's capriciousness. A *Details* fact checker found the following note in a pile of research materials for an upcoming profile: "I, Bret Easton Ellis, will not suffer one word of this manuscript to be edited or altered in any way. And if that scene queen editor of yours has a problem with this, he knows where he can shove it." Presumably in a FedEx back to the States.

**DOLCE WAS A** senior editor at *Details* in the days after Condé Nast purchased it and James Truman alchemized a leaden downtown magazine into the gold standard of national men's magazines. Truman was rewarded when Si Newhouse promoted him to editorial director of all Condé Nast publications.

But Truman's first act in office was a widely acknowledged flop—he entrusted *Details*'s editorship to *Newsweek* staffer John Leland while Dolce split to *Vogue*. The well-meaning Leland brought a populist sensibility to a magazine that prides itself on smug antipopulist hipness, and the usually graceful *Details* fell on its face. Leland was fired (he's since returned to *Newsweek*), and when Dolce was brought back as his replacement, media watchers assumed that the magazine would quickly regain its footing.

Dolce was well primed for the part, having earlier told the *New York Times*, "We [*Details*] don't try to be hip. We just are." Over the last two years, however, Dolce has done little to allay a rising chorus of doubters and naysayers. Under Dolce, says one staffer, "Everything is disorganized, confused, and uncertain. The prevailing feeling is that we don't understand what is wanted of us. You just can't read him." Dolce had only spent a few

months away from *Details*, but he returned with plenty of baggage. "Dolce seemed different when he came back," another former associate told SPY. "He no longer joked around and he had this sort of cultivated pomposity, like a slightly faggy Boston aristocrat."

Going into its sixth year, *Details* has yet to make a profit, and its circulation seems to have maxed out at less than 500,000. And competition is beefing up; magazines like *Spin*, *Men's Health*, *Out*, and even *Playboy* are all enjoying upswings.

Why, then, does Dolce continue to hold the reins? Insiders say that Truman has no other choice: If he fires Dolce (the replacement of his replacement), Truman will have a tough time shaking the blame for *Details*'s flaccid condition. And despite his flashy job description, Truman doesn't have much to fall back on—his big-league résumé includes exactly one item: *Details*.

"*Details* is an interesting case study," a former senior editor told SPY. "It looks like it's doing well—it's thick with ads and full of copy—but who is its audience? Young 20-year-old guys in the heartland? Is it trying to be the magazine that guys across the country have to read to be cool?"

Dolce is certainly "cool." "He spends a lot of money on clothes," says one keen-eyed staffer. "Cream-colored suits, linen vests, waistcoats. He definitely leaves his sunglasses on all the way into the office." And in the carefully chosen photo of Dolce next to his always poorly written editor's letter, he looks even younger than Truman, who is all of 37. Dolce, however, is old enough to be the father of the average *Details* reader.

As a media expert recently told *WWD*, "It's not that *Details* isn't strong, it's just that the circulation of 483,200 in 1995 is pretty much tapped out. The *Details* reader is in his early twenties, and once he gets older, he goes on to a magazine like *GQ* or *Men's Health*." Bowing to this reality, Condé Nast has apparently given up on *Details* as anything but a stepping stone for younger readers to its more mature publications. Like its boy-toy-wanna-be editor, the magazine has chosen to pickle itself in a state of permanent nubile adolescence.—Celia Brady



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# THE SPY



## FRIEND

**W**e're usually pretty friendly here at SPY. We welcome new neighbors to the building with tasty pastries and hold doors open for our fellow citizens—no matter their gender. We always have a simpatico “Howdy” on the tip of our tongue and a smile on our mug. But the more a certain television show infiltrated our *u.u.*, the more *un*friendly we felt. We even started feeling a little curmudgeonly. So when we checked in with our secluded team of annoyance technicians, who monitor appalling and loath-



# DOWNEUP

S #1

From the Diet Coke Ad

some things year-round at SPY's Texas satellite office, it was hardly surprising that *Friends* topped the list. Every year, SPY ranks the world's worst people, places, and things, and in another gesture of friendship, reports the top 100 entries to the general public. This year, we've enhanced our technology by hooking up fiber-optic sensors to the hips of unsuspecting wedding and bar mitzvah guests, enabling us to develop what we call *Macarena Bonus!* As ever, we'll be there for you.

By LANCE GOULD, DAVID ANDREWS, AND JONATHAN YEVIN

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY STEPHEN ROBINSON

HOLIDAY ISSUE 1996 SPY 33

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## FRIENDS#1

**MISDEEDS:** In July, all six members of the ensemble demanded a raise to \$100,000 per episode. • Cast solidarity was shattered by reports that David Schwimmer was negotiating on his own. • The post-Super Bowl special episode featured Brooke Shields, thereby launching the miserable *Suddenly Susan*. • Both Courteney Cox's and Jennifer Aniston's hairstyles have spawned trends. Aniston's is known, with chilling simplicity, as The Rachel. • Aniston and Matthew Perry hosted the Windows '95 tutorial guide. • Radio stations played the depressingly jangly theme song ad nauseam. • *Friends* stars have 14 movies in the works. • Matt LeBlanc has now appeared with two monkeys.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** So far, all of their movies have bombed.

## NBC'S OLYMPICS#3

**MISDEEDS:** When not openly bad-mouthing athletes' homelands, NBC paid about as much attention to medalists from other countries as would generally seem appropriate for ball girls at the U.S. Open. • Correspondent Jim Gray ignored South African gold medalist swimmer Penny Heyns to tell American Amanda Beard, "the entire country is falling in love with you," after she came in a loser-ish second. • Kerri Strug's ligament-twanging vault was replayed every few minutes in slow motion. • Events recorded earlier in the day were duplicitously broadcast as "plausibly live" to make the most of prime-time scheduling. • As part of its cynical scheme to remake the Olympics as a two-week chick flick, NBC took Belo-

ussian gymnast Vitali Scherbo's wife back to the scene of her near-fatal BMW crash so they could film her crying. • P.C. geography nerd Bob Costas reminded anyone fond of using the blowout analogy "like the U.S. against Angola" that Angola is a small country with a per capita income one-fortieth of ours. • Asian protesters demanded an apology following P.C. comments Costas made about China's human rights record.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** No triplecast!

**MACARENA BONUS!** NBC passed up the heart-stopping U.S.-China softball final to cover the U.S. women's gymnastics team doing the macarena at a special gala.

## JOHN TESH'S OLYMPICS#4

**MISDEEDS:** As Kerri Strug's "legendary" coach, Bela Karolyi, was urging her to shake off the pain before her famous vault ("You can do it!"), John Tesh chimed in: "The last thing she should do is take that second vault." • On Chinese gold medalist Li Xiaoshuang: "Here in Atlanta his quest for honor was first met with shame," over footage of Xiaoshuang fumbling the rings two nights before. • Complained to the *Los Angeles Daily News*, "Everyone hates me. Reviewers hate my guts. I've been vilified by everyone."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** His concerts are picketed by people who believe he is an alien.

## DIRTY CONSULTANTS#5

**MISDEEDS:** Pro-family political consultant Dick Morris, adviser to the president on family-values issues, resigned when the *Star* tabloid documented his adultery with call girl Sherry Rowlands. • Morris had treated Rowlands to a preview of the First Lady's convention speech days before the rest of the country heard it. • Arthur

## ALIEN NATION#2

**MISDEEDS:** The nearly \$300 million-grossing jingoistic *Independence Day*, in which superintelligent aliens are decisively beaten by a computer virus, made Will "Not-So-Fresh Prince" Smith a movie star and spawned a nationwide fascination with little green men. • The discovery this summer of billion-year-old mold on a rock presumed to be from Mars got everyone, including President Clinton, babbling about how we're not alone, even though Martian civilization is provably less advanced than toe cheese. • Alien life-forms dominate prime-time television: *The X-Files*; 3rd *Rock from the Sun*; ABC's embarrassing and quickly canceled *Aliens in the Family*; the bazillion *Star Trek* spin-offs; the ludicrous *Alien Autopsy* on Fox; *Homeboys in Outer Space*; and *Dark Skies*, which is based on the theory that aliens killed President Kennedy. • The biggest shocker by far, though, was the revelation that men come from Mars, and women, counterintuitively, from Venus.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Martians won't take our daughters out on the town and then drop them off at 4 A.M., all flustered—unlike some aliens we could mention.



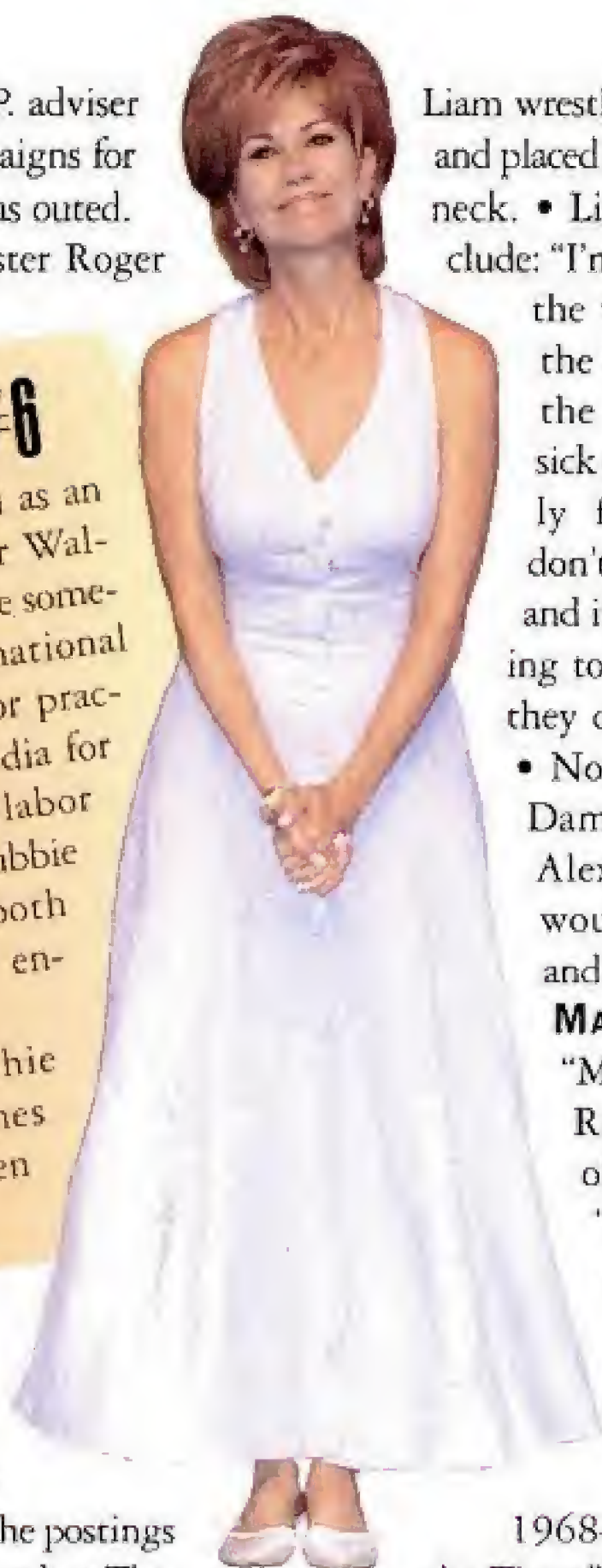


Finkelstein, legendary G.O.P. adviser and architect of several campaigns for vicious antigay candidates, was ousted. • Former Nixon dirty trickster Roger Stone claimed *he* was

## SWEATY LEE GIFFORD #6

**MISDEEDS:** After being exposed as an exploiter of child labor for her Wal-Mart line of clothing, Kathie Lee somehow reinvented herself as a national spokeswoman for ethical labor practices. • Lashed out at the media for not hounding fellow child-labor beneficiary Jaclyn Smith. • Hubbie Frank Gifford tried to smooth things over by handing out envelopes of \$300 to workers.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Kathie Lee's Carnival Cruise Lines plays the song eight to ten times a night.



the victim of a dirty trick when skin shots of his wife turned up on the Internet. • The postings were billed to Stone's credit card. • The Stones denied advertising in *Swing Fever* magazine for men to join them in group sex, as the tabloids had reported.

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** Morris's wife fantasized "about dismembering him." • Friends offered to help her "dig up the backyard and bury him."

**MACARENA BONUS!** An editorial in the *Washington Times*, titled "Dick Morris and the Macarena," slammed Morris for his purported toe fetish.

## OASIS #7

**MISDEEDS:** Liam and Noel Gallagher blamed their father for their parents' divorce 12 years ago. "If I ever see him again, I'll slit his throat from ear to ear," said Liam. • Liam boasts that he can bed any woman he sets eyes on: "If a bird wants a shag I'll do it, I'll do it wherever." • Rebuffed by an attractive blonde at the MTV awards in Paris, however,

Liam wrestled her to the floor and placed a bar stool over her neck. • Liam quotables include: "I'm the best singer in the world and I'm in the biggest group in the universe." "I'm sick of being in this silly fucking band. I don't care about Oasis and if those four are going to be like this, then they can just fuck off."

• Noel said he wished Damon Albarn and Alex James of Blur would "catch AIDS and die."

### MACARENA BONUS!

"Macarena" co-writer Rafael Ruiz said of the band: "Oaaasees? I don't think that's reached Spain. No... Tom

Jones, I like. I met him in 1968—we called him the Tiger."

## ATLANTA'S OLYMPICS #8

**MISDEEDS:** The French synchronized swimming team was rehearsing a routine about the Nazi death-camp experience titled "Tribute to Victims of the Holocaust," using music from *Schindler's List*. The program, which was canceled, began with the swimmers goose-stepping out to the pool.

• At 14, prepubescent chicken-dancer

Dominique Moceanu has already written her autobiography. • Gymnast Kerri Strug has become so famous that she wears a wig to disguise her identity. • Sadly, Strug's voice is distinctively annoying. • A Republic of Georgia judo competitor missed his event because an Atlanta bus got stuck in traffic.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** U.S.A. kicked butt.

**MACARENA BONUS!** During the U.S.-Australia women's hoops game, 30,000 fans did the noxious dance.

## THE ABDOMEN #10

**MISDEEDS:** Americans spent \$400 million on more than 20 different types of abdominal exercisers. • During the Infomercial Emmys, Ab Roller Plus hostess Brenda Dygraff won Best Female Infomercial Presenter of 1996, then thanked Jesus Christ, her "Lord and Savior, because without him I would be nothing."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** In a September special report, *20/20* accused the industry of running fraudulent commercials, including the use of look-alikes for the compelling "before and after" shots.

## MR. SLATE #11

**MISDEEDS:** Michael Kinsley noisily moved to Washington State to edit Bill Gates's online magazine, *Slate*. • *Slate*'s cover depicts a Kinsleyish stick figure hunched over a computer keyboard. • Despite lots of hype about the new paperless medium, *Slate* quickly switched gears and announced it would begin printing a paper version.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** *Wired* magazine in-

## LIDDY DOLE #9

**MISDEEDS:** "Impromptu" walking speech around the G.O.P. convention was anything but. • Did not, as promised, donate several hundred thousand dollars in speech money to the Red Cross. • Her personal financial manager, David Owens, served time for arranging illegal contributions to a Dole ally's election fund. • Owens says that she personally asked him to run her blind trust.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** When Hillary Clinton worked in Congress on the Watergate investigation, Liddy worked for the Nixon administration.





stituted the Kinsley Deathwatch in September.

## ANONYMOUS BOSH#12

**MISDEEDS:** *Newsweek* columnist Joe Klein lied when asked directly whether he had written *Primary Colors*. • The book earned him \$6 million. • *Newsweek* editor in chief Richard M. Smith let Klein keep his column: "We'll be discussing with Joe the complex issue of how his fiction and non-fiction roles can coexist."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Tom Hanks turned down the role of "Clinton" in the movie.

## ELECTION-YEAR CONVENTIONS#13

**MISDEEDS:** Entrance music at the Republican convention: Liddy Dole emerged to "My Girl"; Bob Dole teetered out to the *Rocky* theme. • "Beginnings," a 1969 concept track by Chicago about the horrific 1968 convention, was played after Clinton's acceptance speech. • Christopher Reeve and James Brady addressed delegates during the Democrats' "Festival of Wheelchairs." • Journalistic hand-wringing about whether the conventions provided enough "real news" led to Ted Koppel storming out of San Diego, even though no convention had provided real news since 1976. • Al Gore used his sister's smoking-related death for sympathy despite having accepted contributions from tobacco interests until six years after her death. • Kenny G played a sax tribute to Ron Brown at the Democratic Convention.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Clinton didn't play a sax tribute to anyone.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Mary Matalin said she "was honored" to learn the dance from Donna Shalala.

## MONTANA#14

**MISDEEDS:** It took 81 days, 633 FBI agents, and millions of dollars to get the Freemen to surrender from their

Justus Township compound. The FBI even took 10 weeks to shut off the ranch's power. • Inside their 960-acre compound, the 26 antigovernment zealots ate barbecue together and channel-surfed for news about themselves on satellite TV. • Robert "Rat Boy" Dorton fired gun shots at authorities when they tried to seize his cat-sized rats. • Bearded maniac Ted Kaczynski fit right in among the wing nuts in Lincoln.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Montana only ranked 39th in SPY's Most Annoying States survey.

## THE SOUND OF HUBRIS#15

**MISDEEDS:** Julie Andrews, the star of *Victor/Victoria*, refused her Tony nomination for Best Actress in a Musical when the rest of the cast was snubbed: "I have searched my conscience and my heart," she announced, "and find that I cannot accept this nomination, preferring to stand with the egregiously overlooked." • Tony Roberts, one of the "egregiously overlooked," portrays Andrews's gay manager with a cheesy effeminate swagger and a lisp.

## THE ARCH DELUXE#16

**MISDEEDS:** McDonald's new "adult-style"

sandwich wasn't the smash hit many investors had hoped it might be. • In a memo to 2,700 franchise operators, McDonald's president Edward Rensi claimed the Dijon-sauce-topped cheeseburger was "never intended to be a silver bullet. Only those expecting a miracle were disappointed." • McDonald's executive chef—formerly of Chicago's ritzy Pump Room—describes his new Fish Filet Deluxe thus: "First, I want your tongue to get a crispy seafood flavor from the pollock filet coated with premium Japanese bread crumbs. Then, as you bite down, you sink into the welcoming crown of the potato roll, the creamy dill remoulade, a bit of flavor from the chopped onions. Then, the cool contrast of crispness from leaf lettuce, the rich, melted American cheese, and a little pepper note as a surprise."

**MACARENA BONUS!** Debbie Allen was hired to choreograph an Arch Deluxe dance, modeled after the macarena.

## THE LAKE OF DEATH#18

**MISDEEDS:** In the two years since the demonic Susan Smith drowned her sons in John D. Long

## RAP'S CIVIL WAR#17

**MISDEEDS:** West Coast rapper Tupac Shakur and Death Row Records feuded openly with New York rapper Biggie Smalls and his Bad Boy label. "I fucked your bitch, you fat motherfucker," Tupac taunted the portly Smalls on the B side of his "2 of AmeriKaz Most Wanted." • When Death Row rappers Tha Dogg Pound stomped on Manhattan in their "New York, New York" video, a group of East Coasters replied with a video titled "LA, LA," which showed Dogg Pound look-alikes being kidnapped, tortured, and tossed into the East River. • In March, when the two sides met at the *Soul Train* music awards, guns were reportedly drawn. • In September, the car in which Shakur was riding was sprayed with bullets. Four struck Shakur in the chest, killing him.







## ART#21

**MISDEEDS:** Recent biopics of genius freakazoids include *Surviving Picasso*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, and *Basquiat*. • Two different actors portrayed Warhol this year, Jared Harris in *I Shot Andy Warhol*, and David Bowie in *Basquiat*. • Preparing to play Picasso, Anthony

Hopkins suffered a nervous breakdown. • *Basquiat's* portly director Julian Schnabel cast the slimmer Gary Oldman to play him in the movie. • The St. Louis Art Museum sued the Whitney Museum after a Whitney security guard scrawled, "I love you, Tushee, Love, Buns" on the Roy Lichtenstein painting *Curtains* in 1993.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Neither *Basquiat* nor *Surviving Picasso* received permission to use the artists' original art.

Lake, the spot where she rolled her Mazda into the Union, South Carolina, reservoir has become a tourist attraction.

• While two families were visiting the site this summer, their van lurched forward and rolled down a steep, grassy slope into the water, killing seven people. • The van was in park when it was pulled from the lake.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** The lake may be drained to prevent further accidents.

## AOL GOES AWOL#19

**MISDEEDS:** Service crashed for 14 hours in August during routine software upgrade, depriving all 6.2 million members of their E-mail and kinky chat rooms. • The day after his company suffered a total system collapse, president Steve Case began one of his sappy letters to users thus: "Wednesday was a bad day for me."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** In September, AOL agreed to a \$23 million settlement of a class action lawsuit over billing practices.

## MAD COW DISEASE#20

**MISDEEDS:** Panic over bovine spongiform encephalopathy flared up again after the British government admitted that 10 people had probably died after eating infected beef. • To "cure" the problem, Britain plans to execute

15,000 cows, infected or not, every week for the next five to six years, a total of 4.5 million.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Whoever named it mad cow disease is a genius.

## G.O.P. NOMINEE WANNA-BES#22

**MISDEEDS:** Pat Buchanan's tongue: "Do not wait for orders from headquarters! Mount up! And ride to the sound of guns!" (New Hampshire); "I'll build that security fence, and we'll close it! And we'll say, 'Listen, José, you're not coming in this time.'" (Iowa) • Alan Keyes went on a hunger strike because he was not allowed to participate in a debate in Columbia, South Carolina. • Bob Dole returned a campaign donation from the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay conservative group. • Lamar Alexander's ideological contribution to the campaign was wearing a ratty black-and-red plaid shirt.

• Each of the eight candidates took swipes at the media, though almost half of them—Forbes, Keyes, and Buchanan—were themselves members.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Colin Powell joined 400 children of the Scottsdale, Arizona, Boys & Girls Club in a macarena dance.

## BILL'S GATES#23

**MISDEEDS:** The White House blamed a "snafu" for its request that the FBI give them hundreds of files on its political en-

emies dating back to the Reagan administration. • Four of the five key players in Filegate pleaded the Fifth, evaded the U.S. Marshall's Service, or otherwise avoided having to testify.

• In September, a committee released its report on Travelgate, where the Clintons are accused of ruining the careers of seven able civil servants to make room in the White House travel office for their cronies.

## THEME EATERIES#24

**MISDEEDS:** There are now more than 35 Hard Rock Cafes and nearly 30 Planet Hollywoods. The following theme restaurants either opened or are in development: Harley-Davidson Cafe, Motown Cafe, Nascar Cafe,

Fashion Cafe, Elvis Diner, *Baywatch* Cafe, All-Star Cafe, *Star Trek* Cafe, Michael Jordan's, and the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., among others. • The *Star Trek* Cafe offers Vulkan Pie, Klingon Burgers, free models of the Starship *Enterprise* with larger orders, and the salutation, "Have a cosmic day!" • David Copperfield is developing a magic-based restaurant in Times Square featuring levitations and sawings-in-half. • *Baywatch* Cafes will feature actual sand from *Baywatch* Beach. • The Rainforest Cafe, "an environmentally conscious family adventure," offers kid-friendly eco-lessons from Tracy the talking Banyan tree.

## WE SO CRAZY#25

**MISDEEDS:** This spring, Martin Lawrence ran around a busy Los Angeles intersection, waving a gun and advising frightened onlookers to "Fight! Don't give up. Fight the power!" His physician said the comedian was suffering from "complete exhaustion and dehydration." • In April, Margot Kidder was found huddled inside a cardboard box and missing several false teeth after a severe emotional breakdown. • Last June, former *Family Feud* host Ray Combs, deeply in debt, hanged himself in a closet of the Glendale Adventist Medical Center. • Loony millionaire John Du Pont is the prime suspect in the murder of Olympic wrestler Dave Schultz. • One Christmas Eve, Du Pont drove his *tank* into a neigh-





## MUSTN'T SEE TV #28

**MISDEEDS:** NBC discovered the trick of sandwiching lame sitcoms between some combination of *Friends*, *Seinfeld*, and *ER*. • After leaving its cozy home between *Seinfeld* and *ER*, the dreadful *Caroline in the City* was slaughtered in its season premiere by *Spin City*. • Jonathan Silverman's sitcom *The Single Guy* reminds one of the title character of his movie *Weekend at Bernie's*: a dead guy propped up between two living guys. • One of *Suddenly Susan*'s promotional spots, in which Brooke Shields played a stereotypical Asian martial arts master, was scrapped after harsh criticism from Asian groups.

the world stage by meeting with Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha. • After meeting, called for "fairness" toward Abacha, who has plundered his country's coffers and executed political dissidents, including renowned playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa. • Returned to Chi-Town with a letter from Abacha in support of Clinton, embarrassing him. • Denied reports that the Demo-

cratic party offered to pay off her campaign debt if she would give up her seat when her term expires in 1998.

## BUMPING THE UMP #26

**MISDEEDS:** Disagreeing with a call, baseball player Roberto Alomar spit in an umpire's face and made callous remarks regarding the man's dead son. • The NBA's Dennis Rodman, Nick Van Exel, and Magic Johnson each physically bumped referees, Rodman with his head. • When umpire John McSherry died on opening day in Cincinnati, Reds owner Marge Schott complained that the game had to be postponed, then added insult to insult by re-using flowers that someone had sent her as an apology to the umpiring crew.

**MACARENA BONUS!** First-base umpire

Eric Gregg was criticized for "not acting as if [he was] working in a pen-nant race," after doing the macarena between innings at a Padres-Cubs game in September.

## MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DON'T #29

**MISDEEDS:** Chicago, New York, and Seattle have led the charge to remove all monkey bars from playgrounds and replace them with what New York City parks commissioner Henry Stern calls "blander play equipment." • The problem with monkey bars, according to Robert Johnert, a New York Parks Department official, is that "if you fall, you're going to be like a ball in a pinball machine." • Free-standing slides, seesaws, sandboxes, and metal swings are also on the way out.

## CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN #30

**MISDEEDS:** Made her debut on

## DELTA AIRLINES SPOKESTWIT #31

**MISDEEDS:** Ridiculously English actor Nigel Havers, who played an Olympian in *Chariots of Fire*, starred in a series of dim-witted ads for Delta Airlines during the Olympics in which he promised to travel "17 days, five countries, [and] three continents" in the spirit of the games. • *Adweek* accurately described Havers as a "hapless dweeb running around airports—the poor man's Mr. Infiniti." • In July, a Delta jet engine blew apart, fatally injuring a young boy and his mother. Less than a month later, a piece of a Delta jet engine fell onto a New York City house shortly after the plane had left LaGuardia Airport. "How very civilized."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Ad Meter viewers didn't like Havers. When his face appeared

## AL FRANKEN #27

**MISDEEDS:** After *Stuart Saves His Family* was a big, fat box-office bomb, Franken wrote *Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations* and abandoned comedy for a career as a political know-it-all. • Backed out of writing an exposé of Clinton, claiming that he couldn't find any dirt on our lying, philandering, Whitewater-rafting president: "Jesus Christ, this guy is a good president. I mean, here I was trying to write a scathing piece on Clinton, and at a certain point it just became impossible." • Franken later admitted he was a complete leftist and firmly "in the president's pocket."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Not doing painfully unfunny "Weekend Update" bits on SNL anymore.





on the screen, Delta's Ad Meter scores plummeted.

### WORLD WIDE WASTE OF TIME#32

**MISDEEDS:** Set your browser to "anus," at <http://www.anus.com>, and you reach the American Nihilist Underground Society. • There is a page that tracks the minute-to-minute paper worth of internet millionaires, or "internet gods," in the words of page cofounder Mike Walsh.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** At the end of the first presidential debate, Dole encouraged young people to "tap into my homepage, that's <http://www.dolecamp.org>," but ol' Mr. Wired forgot the "dot" before "org."

**MACARENA BONUS!** Web page "Angry@Macarena!!" calls this form of line dancing "a social cancer."

### TAWKIN' CABS#33

**MISDEEDS:** New York City cabs now feature, at the end of every ride, an Orwellian recording of a woman's voice saying, "Please remember to take all of your belongings when leaving this taxicab and get a receipt from the driver." • Taxi and Limousine Commission chairman Christopher Lynn ordered the device placed in 500 of New York's nearly 12,000 medallion cabs. • Said one passenger—from Long Island of all places—of the original message, recorded by Queens secretary Victoria Drakoulis: "It's not a pleasant voice. It's rough and rather abrasive, not pleasing to the ear at all." • The commission recorded a new message with Donna Hoffman, a singer from Pittsburgh.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Not leaving stuff in cabs, obviously.

### CYCLOSPORA#34

**MISDEEDS:** In June, professional bug hunters at the Centers for Disease Control, the FDA, and health departments in 10 states announced that the germ responsible for 1,000 recently reported cases of diarrhea had been traced to California strawberries. • Initial reports about "the strawberry disease" cost California strawberry growers millions of dollars in sales. • Papers across the country likened the diarrhea disease to Legionnaires' disease and AIDS.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Sufferers at least got

to enjoy the strawberries before the onset of diarrhea.

### SENATOR HYPOCRITE#35

**MISDEEDS:** Despite revelations in June regarding his own questionable financial dealings, Senator Al D'Amato led the Whitewater inquiry into the Clintons' financial dealings. • On June 29, 1993, D'Amato managed a one-day profit of \$37,125, increasing his net worth by half. • The brokerage Stratton Oakmont had bent its rules to get him in on the deal. • D'Amato reportedly had asked Stratton chairman Jordan Belfort at a New York fund-raiser, "Can you make me some money?"

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Gossip columnist Claudia Cohen dumped him.

### FREAK BASEBALL ACCIDENTS#36

**MISDEEDS:** Dodger center fielder Brett Butler developed cancer, was given a 70 percent chance of living, made a remarkable recovery, returned to baseball, and *then* broke his hand. • Oriole shortstop Cal Ripken, who last year set a record for consecutive games played, had his nose broken accidentally during an All-Star game team-photo session.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Bob Dole congratulated "Brooklyn" Dodger pitcher Hideo Nomo on his no-hitter. The Dodgers now reside in Los Angeles.

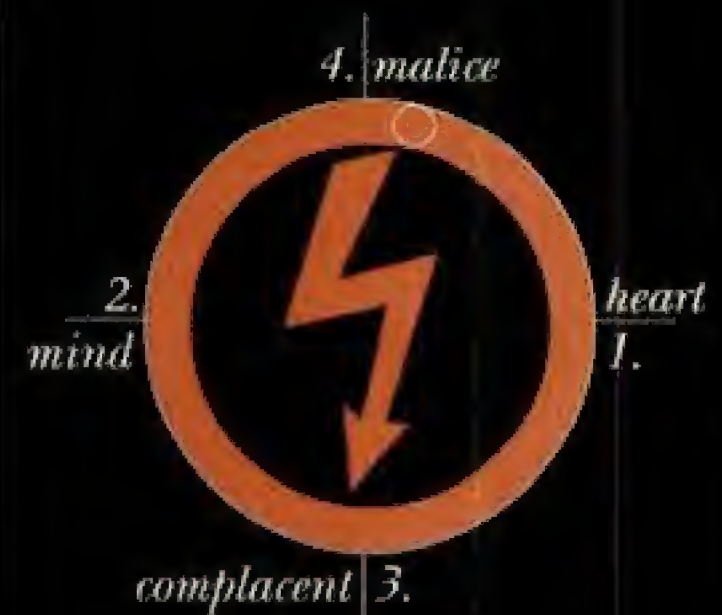
### OLD AS CAPITOL HILL#37

**MISDEEDS:** Fifty-six percent of South Carolina Republicans polled a year ago felt that 93-year-old Strom Thurmond should not seek reelection, but he ran unopposed for his eighth term. • He was born during the Roosevelt administration—no, not Franklin Delano's, *Teddy's*.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Thurmond provided Maureen Dowd's alibi when the *New York Post* reported that she had been haggling at Barney's. It was actually a SPY reporter.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Dennis Miller, emceeding the MTV Video Music Awards: "I thought this day would never arrive. I've been sitting on 30 or 40 macarena jokes that are as stale as the condom in Strom Thurmond's wallet."

### CINCINNATI REDNECK#38



MARILYN  
*antichrist superstar*  
MANSON

IX VI III VII

nothing: 

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**MISDEEDS:** Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott was banned from day-to-day supervision of the Reds through 1998. • Kept a swastika armband in her drawer at home. She said it was a "gift from an employee." • A council investigating Schott concluded she referred to blacks as "nigger, lazy nigger, damn nigger, and dumb, lazy nigger," often while addressing employees of the club. There was also substantial evidence that Schott referred to Jews as "Jew bastards" and "dirty Jews," and commonly referred to people of Japanese origin as "Japs." • Complained to a *Sports Illustrated* reporter that Asian children "come here and stay so long and then outdo our kids."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** No kids.

### THOUGHT-POLICE BRUTALITY#39

**MISDEEDS:** Congressional cafeteria cashier Bernice Harris, 59, quit three weeks before her retirement rather than let Senate Restaurants management reassign her after a congressional staffer formally complained that she called him "baby." • Christopher Held, the staffer, said he found the term "real bothersome" and that it made him feel "a little uncomfortable." • Two boys were disciplined by their school districts for planting smooches on their female classmates. • An Ohio eighth grader received a week's suspension for taking Midol for menstrual cramps.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Wake County, North Carolina, school administrators banned the instruction of the dance after a parent complained about the song's lyrics.

### THE MACARENA#40

**MISDEEDS:** Los Del Rio performed the song in Beirut, Lebanon. • The Pope personally blessed Los Del Rio's Antonio Romero Monge and Rafael Ruiz. "It's a miracle," Monge says. "Everyone around the world is coming together and dancing the macarena." • Everywhere they go, Los Del Rio say, mothers tell them about a new crop of baby girls named Macarena. • By now there are numerous versions of the song (Los Del Rio alone have recorded six versions) and different countries have added variations to the basic dance moves.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** The Spanish haven't had a foothold this good in the New World since Teddy Roosevelt kicked their asses out of Cuba.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Oh yeah.

### WHAT'S HIS NAME#41

**MISDEEDS:** Still insists on being called ♀. • Married belly dancer Mayte Garcia, whom he met in 1990 when she was 16 years old. • Garcia pointed to a pendant in the shape of his symbol while reciting her wedding vows since she, like everyone else on the planet, can't pronounce his name. • Released the aptly titled *Chaos and Disorder*, a grab bag of throw-away tunes originally intended "4 private use only," to satisfy his record contract.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Probably insane.

### HEEEY, SMACK-A-RENA#42

**MISDEEDS:** *Trainspotting*, a film about Scottish kids on heroin, was this year's art-house hit. Sample dialogue: "I choose not to choose life. And the reasons? There are no reasons. Who needs reasons when you've got heroin?" • In July, Smashing Pumpkins keyboardist Jonathan Melvoin died of a heroin overdose. • Pumpkins drummer Jimmy Chamberlin, Stone Temple Pilots singer Scott Weiland, Pantera singer Phil Anselmo, Courtney Love, Kelley Deal of the Breeders, Al Jourgensen of Ministry, and David Gahan of Depeche Mode all had troubles with the drug this year, as well. • Robert Downey, Jr., unwittingly stumbled into a neighbor's bed after an alleged drug trip. Now in rehab,

Downey says his limo driver dropped him at the wrong house.

### TWO B'S OR NOT TWO B'S?#43

**MISDEEDS:** Media sources disagreed over whether to call the mad mail-bomber the "Unabomber" or the "Unabomer." • William Safire noted that "without the second *b*, the word ['bomer'] looks as if it should rhyme with 'Homer.' " • *Newsweek* originally used one *b* but then announced: "To avoid any further confusion, we've decided to accept what's now common practice, and from now on it will be Unabomber."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** The oh-so-clever *New York Times* avoided controversy by referring to Ted Kaczynski as "the suspect in the Unabom case."

### THE CABBAGE DIET#44

**MISDEEDS:** The moronic one-week dieting fad allowed one unlimited cabbage soup, but little else. • It's also known as the Skinny, the Fat Burning Diet, and T.J.'s Miracle Diet. • The American Heart Association issued a statement against the diet because it recommends up to 20 ounces of beef on days five and six.

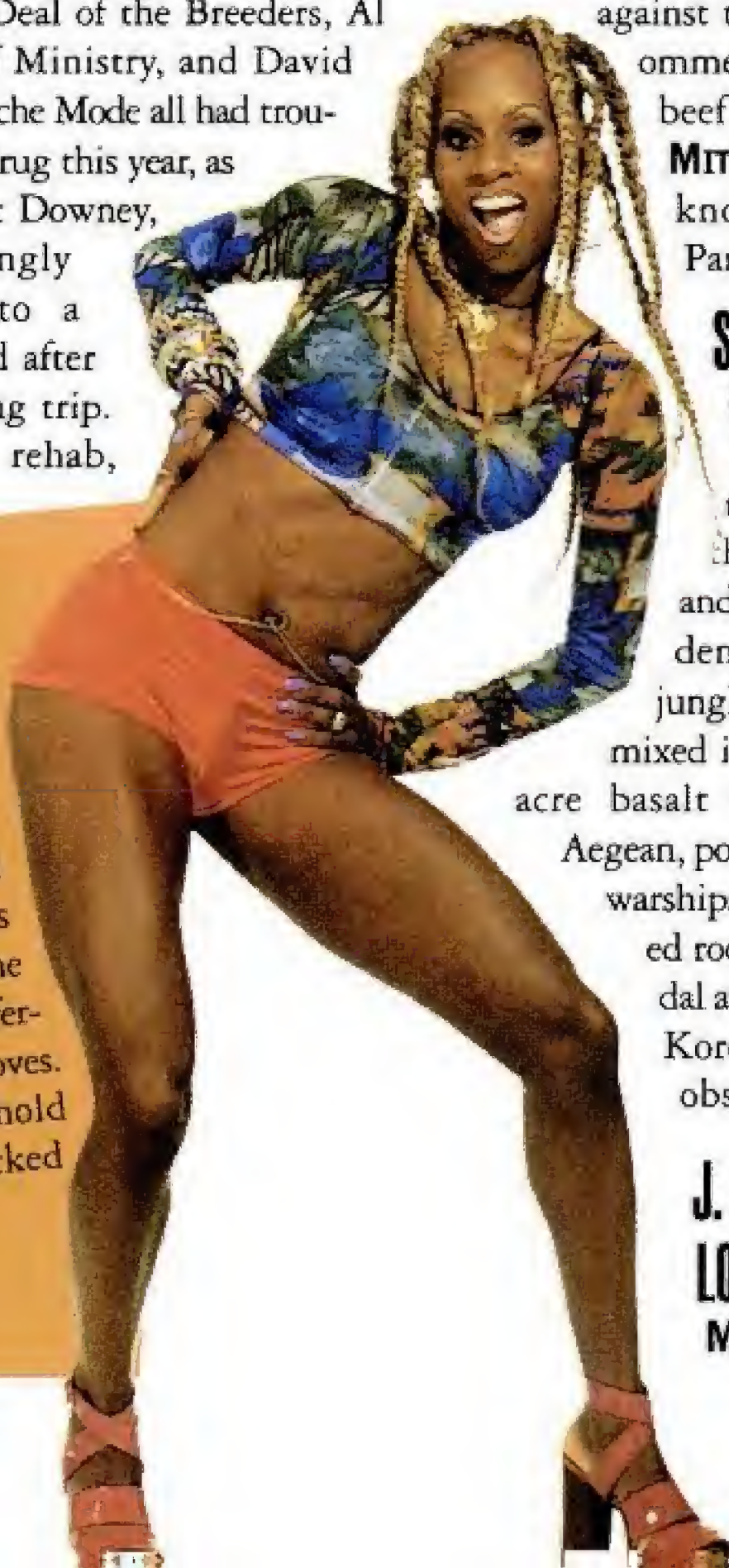
**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Also known as the Dolly Parton Diet.

### STUPID WARS#45

**MISDEEDS:** In the first international war in this hemisphere since the Falklands, Ecuador and Peru fought over some dense thickets of useless jungle. • Greece and Turkey mixed it up over a useless 10-acre basalt outcropping in the Aegean, positioning combat-ready warships around an unpopular rock. • Fighting off scandal at home, the president of Korea sent ships to claim obscure Japanese atolls.

### J. AUSTEN: DEAD & LOVING IT#46

**MISDEEDS:** *Emma*, *Pride*





The  
Captain  
was  
here



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Puerto Rican Rum with spice and other natural flavors • 35% Alc. by Vol. (70 proof) • Captain Morgan Rum Co., Baltimore, MD ©1996



*and Prejudice, Clueless, Sense and Sensibility, Persuasion*, Gwyneth Paltrow.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Jane Austen collects no royalties whatsoever for her over-mannered drivel.

## NEWS CHANNEL 4, NEW YORK #47

**MISDEEDS:** Introduced Manhattan to the Doppler 4000 (a weather tracker 50,000 times more powerful than radar!!) with an advertising blitzkrieg.

• Anchorman Chuck Scarborough was reprimanded by the network for contributing money to Steve Forbes's campaign and then interviewing him a few days later.

• Maintained that its news coverage was superior because it had Chopper 4. • Chopper 4 is a helicopter.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Doppler 4000 can track weather down to a single city block.

## D.C. SHUTDOWN #48

**MISDEEDS:** Newt Gingrich led his Republican revolutionaries to shut down the government *twice* because he got a bad seat on Air Force One returning from Yitzhak Rabin's funeral. • Conservative cookie magnate and Gingrich opponent Michael Coles was motivated to run when he took his family to Yellowstone National Park and found it closed.

## SALTY SEAMEN #49

**MISDEEDS:** Three navy servicemen were sent to jail by a Japanese court for the abduction and rape of a 12-year-old girl.

• Admiral Jeremy "Mike" Boorda was caught by *Newsweek* wearing combat insignia that he'd never earned. • He subsequently killed himself over the matter. • Navy F-14s fell out of the sky like pieces of ticker tape. • The Kelsey Grammer vehicle *Down Periscope*.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** The Village People's "In the Navy" still sounds amazingly fresh after all this time.

## SIBLING RIVALRY #50

**MISDEEDS:** Noel and Liam Gallagher, the foul-mouthed, fist-fighting brothers of Oasis, hate each other. "I fucking hate that twat," snarled Liam. "I hope one day I can smash the fuck out of him with a fucking Rickenbacker." • M.I.T. researcher Frank Sullo-way discovered

## MTV #51

**MISDEEDS:** The bizarre disappearance of videos from MTV's programming palette. The M apparently now stands for "Morons in Hawaiian shirts." • MTV had to launch MTV2 just to have an outlet for videos. • The network's tutorial in California kickback living, *The Beach House*. • Political correspondent Tabitha Soren. • Soren's public romance with sexual mutant Michael Lewis.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Ratings for this year's video music awards down more than 10 percent.

**MACARENA BONUS!** The video for "Macarena" made celebrities of the two grooviest old men in the world.

that later-born children in a family are much more likely to be rebelliously creative than their staid older siblings. • Unabomber Ted Kaczynski was finally nabbed after his brother David recognized the writing style of the *Unabomber Manifesto*. • "I think Ted has been a disturbed person for a long time," said David.

## HEAD COLDS OF STATE #52

**MISDEEDS:** Boris Yeltsin danced the frug at a campaign stop to show off his

vigor. • After Yeltsin won the election, the Kremlin announced that he had a heart blockage complicated by internal bleeding and that he needed bypass surgery. • With his presidential hopes dwindling, Dole demanded Clinton release his full health records: "We can't see your health records, Mr. President. You can see mine. I'm very healthy. Bob Dole is healthy." • Later, he toppled off a stage. • White House press secretary Mike McCurry repeatedly denied that his boss had been treated for a sexually transmitted disease.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Rumors began to circulate, as the election drew near, that there might be something amiss with Dole's permanently clenched right hand.

## "RETOOLING" SITCOMS #53

**MISDEEDS:** Before *Cosby's* September debut, a new executive producer was hired to make *Cosby's* character "warmer, less embittered, and more assertive." • Phylicia Rashad, who played *Cosby's* wife on *The Cosby Show*, was brought in to do it again. • Brooke Shields's *Suddenly Susan* was originally slated to be about a restaurant, but the night before the first rehearsal, it was changed to a publishing house. • Unhappy with the pilot, NBC ordered a new one, and scrapped everyone but Shields.

**MACARENA BONUS!** After the launch of CBS's newsroom romance *Ink* was postponed, its star Ted Danson found time to macarena at the Democratic Convention.

## LAWYERS NEEDING LAWYERS #54

**MISDEEDS:** Leslie Abramson faced possible investigations by the state bar and district attorney after a defense psychiatrist admitted having altered notes of his interviews with parent-killing rich kid





Erik Menendez. • Abramson acknowledged instructing the shrink on how to edit his notes but claimed that rewriting them from scratch was his own idea. • Pleaded the Fifth when first asked about the matter in court; later regretted doing so, blaming bad legal advice. • F. Lee Bailey was imprisoned for six weeks in Tallahassee on contempt charges. • Went to the big house rather than surrender a drug dealer's assets that had been placed in his trust. • Bailey once represented the Boston Strangler.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Bailey ended up relinquishing his personal yacht, and the next \$700,000 he earns will be docked by the court.

## BALKANS' MOST WANTED #55

**MISDEEDS:** Indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic is both a psychologist and a psychopath. • The Serbian Democratic party, whose leader, Arkan, designed Serbia's ethnic cleansing policy, receives money from the U.N. as part of the Dayton peace accords. • General Ratko Mladic, also indicted, was shown on Bosnian television after the famous massacre of 8,000 Muslim men at Srebrenica,

telling his then-captives: "I am General Mladic. No one can save you. Not God. Not the U.N. Only I can save you."



## BATTLE ROYAL #56

**MISDEEDS:** Princess Di got a \$25 million settlement from Prince Charles but had to relinquish the title "Her Royal Highness" to get it. • Despite lavish settlement, Di's lapsed credit card was rejected at a favorite shopping haunt. • The royals held a summit at Balmoral in September. Topics included: distancing themselves from the Anglican church; allowing royals to marry Catholics; and slimming down the number of people considered "royal." • Charles insisted that frumpy new girlfriend Camilla Parker Bowles hire an image consultant.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** In a TV interview, Diana denied obsessively making over 300 silent anonymous phone calls to the home of art dealer Oliver Hoare. Many of the calls, as she claimed, were made by an unnamed "young boy."



## G.O.P. STONERS #57

**MISDEEDS:** Bob Dole's "Just don't do it" slogan plagiarizes Nancy Reagan and Nike. • Dole campaign aide John Buckley was reported to have smoked and sold small quantities of marijuana at Hampshire College in the seventies. • Republican Convention keynote speaker Susan Molinari admitted that she, too, had smoked pot, after earlier denying it.

## KURD VS. KURD #58

**MISDEEDS:** Iraqi Kurdish faction leaders Jalal Talabani and Massoud Barzani hate each other more than their countless respective enemies hate them both. • Saddam Hussein's recent crack-down provided a decent pretext for Clinton to bomb the shit out of Iraqi installations and firm up his lead in the campaign polls.

## MITIGATING

**FACTOR:** The Kurds' biggest persecutor is one Little Miss Muffet.

## SHOW AND MONTEL #59

**MISDEEDS:** Two former producers, a former executive assistant, a nanny, and a housekeeper all filed suit against Montel Williams, claiming he called female guests "bitches" and "hos" and subjected staff to sexual innuendos. • The contested lawsuit accuses the talk-show host of groping female employees, making lewd remarks, and presiding over meetings in his undies.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Williams remains completely bald.

## GREENBACK COMEBACKS #60

**MISDEEDS:** Both Kiss and the Sex Pistols reformed in order to make tons of cash.

• The four members of Kiss were

## ROBERT DE NIRO'S SAME OLD SHTICK #61

**MISDEEDS:** After remaking *Goodfellas* with Martin Scorsese and calling it *Casino*, burned-out thespian Robert De Niro appeared in *The Fan*... as a raving psycho: quite a stretch from his boy-next-door characters in *Mean Streets*, *The Godfather*, *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, *The King of Comedy*, *Cape Fear*, *Heat*, *This Boy's Life*, and *Frankenstein*. Oh yeah, and *Casino* and *Goodfellas*.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** For *The Fan*, De Niro studied cutlery with his legendary thoroughness, and would show up for rehearsals with bandages on his hands.





## THE HUNKY MOONER#62

**MISDEEDS:** JFK junior's political cheerleading magazine *George* was more read about than read. • After a lifetime of downplaying his ambitions to follow in the footsteps of his murdered father and uncle, John-John threw a party at the Art Institute of Chicago for the Democratic convention. • Pulled off an ostentatiously discreet marriage to longtime girlfriend Carolyn Bessette. • Refused to confirm or deny rumors that she was pregnant with a possible John-John-John.

**MACARENA BONUS!** The 300 guests at Kennedy's wedding on Cumberland Island, Georgia, were allegedly all on their feet in the predictable pantomime.

featured on four separate covers of the same issue of *Spin*.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Any day now.

## MISS KANSAS#63

**MISDEEDS:** Miss America 1997, Tara Dawn Holland, pulled a De Niro and studied 100 videotapes of beauty contestants strutting their stuff in preparation for the pageant. • Struck out three times in bid for the Miss Florida crown before relocating to Kansas. • Asked if she had a boyfriend, the Machiavellian model replied, "I freed myself from all those obligations so I'd be ready for this job."

• The night of the Miss America pageant, Holland slept in her crown.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:**

Bug-eating war hero Scott O'Grady was a pageant judge.

## ORBITZ#64

**MISDEEDS:** Clearly Canadian released a new beverage called Orbitz, which uses "fluid-gel" technology to suspend tiny gelatinous dumplings in liquid without sinking. • Said spokesman Jonathan Cronin: "We want to give [consumers] some-

thing that's not only delicious but entertaining—something that makes the person who brings Orbitz into the room the center of attention for a few moments."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Spoke of creating a "Jetsons mentality" with the beverage.

## ROHYPNOL, THE DATE-RAPE PILL#65

**MISDEEDS:** Known on the street as "roofies," "rope," "the forget pill," and "roach" and manufactured by Hoffman-La Roche under the name Rohypnol, this powerful sedative is 10 times stronger than Valium. • Cases of "roofies rape," which usually involve slipping the drug into a woman's drink, are hopeless to prosecute, since the women can't remember any details of the crime. • Mark Perez, a satellite-dish installer



from Pembroke Pines, Florida, boasted to his friends that he'd used the drug to rape a dozen women, most of whom he had picked up in bars.

## SANDY'S SOCIAL CLIMBING#66

**MISDEEDS:** In March, the estranged wife of MTV cofounder Bob Pittman, Sandy "Hill" Pittman, filed the first reports of her expedition to Mt. Everest from her Central Park West penthouse: "I wouldn't dream of leaving town without an ample supply of Dean & DeLuca's Near East Blend and my espresso maker."

• Pittman's complement of high-tech gadgetry included a digital camera, laptops, and a satellite phone. • During a sudden storm, eight of her fellow climbers died, including her expedition leader Scott Fischer, an experienced Everester. • Pittman got off with frostbitten middle fingers. • Has already begun writing a book, to be called *Summits of My Soul*, about her exploits. • Called the trip "cheaper and more satisfying than a New York shrink."

## CELEBRITY WINDS#67

**MISDEEDS:** Silly storm names included Hortense, Edouard, Josephine, and Fran.

• Postponed a Yankees-Orioles playoff game. • Killed a few people, too.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Winds are a naturally occurring phenomenon.

## ABUSING RICHARD JEWELL#68

## RENT#69

**MISDEEDS:** *La Bobeme* rip-off. • Bloomingdale's put out a *Rent* line of clothes which includes black-vinyl pants, leopard-print halter tops, and baby T-shirts.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** If you die mere weeks after finishing your major work, as did writer Jonathan Larson, you're entitled to a little acclaim.

**MACARENA BONUS!** *Rent* director Michael Greiff staged a critically panned production of a play entitled *Randy Newman's Faust*, which featured angels dancing the macarena.



**MISDEEDS:** "Beefy" security guard Richard Jewell discovered the Olympic pipe bomb, only to be accused of planting it. • The FBI tried to trick Jewell into waiving his right to have a lawyer present while he was questioned by telling him that he was in a mock question session being taped as a training film for interrogations. • Said Jewell's lawyer, "Jewell has got diarrhea of the mouth like you can't even imagine."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Jewell got to spend three months watching TV and playing video games with his mother.

## JESSICA DUBROFF'S MOM#70

**MISDEEDS:** Seven-year-old Jessica Dubroff's parents were intent on her being the youngest person ever to fly across the country. • At 4 feet 2 inches tall, Jessica needed a booster seat to see through the windshield and used aluminum extenders to reach the floor pedals. • Jessica's father, Lloyd, and flight instructor, Joe Reid, were in such a rush to beat a rapidly approaching thunderstorm that they tried to take off without removing the wheel chocks. Jessica had to kill the engine and try again. • In less than a minute, the single-engine Cessna 177B, flying over the weight limit, went into what Cheyenne, Wyoming, airport manager Jerry Olson called a "classic stall" and plunged into a nosedive. • Lisa Blair Hathaway, Jessica's morose mother, went on television to defend the idea of children flying. "You look at Jess and tell me how you can question that," she said. "Have you seen a seven-year-old shine like that? She had room to be; she had room to have a life. Jess did what she enjoyed: she had a full, wonderful, wonderful, exquisite life." • She was seven years old.

## FILMMAKERS NAMED BURNS#71

**MISDEEDS:** Ed Burns's terrible film *She's the One* was a remake of his other terrible film *The Brothers McMullen*. • Both films featured his untalented girlfriend, Maxine Bahns. • The annoying brothers Burns—Ken and Ric—each bored PBS

audiences with *separate* documentaries about the American West.

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** Ed Burns announced plans to film his new movie, *Long Time, Nothing New*, in the "Irish dirtbag" section of Long Beach. • He was denied a filming permit.

## GOLF AND TIGERS#72

**MISDEEDS:** It's rich people's pool. • Tiger Woods was criticized by fellow pros for skipping a tournament. • Tiger's father, Earl, said that if Tiger had never taken up golf, he "would probably be a 400-meter runner and he'd be kicking Michael Johnson's ass."

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** More 1996 golf

## TOM CRUISE, LIFESAVER#73

**MISDEEDS:** Just before the release of his film *Mission: Impossible*, Tom Cruise saved the life of a woman who had been hit by a car. • At the film's London premiere, Cruise saved the life of a small boy caught in the crush of the crowd outside. • Just after the release of his movie, Cruise saved the lives of an entire French family aboard a burning yacht.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Cruise was unable to save the confusing plot of *Mission: Impossible*. Hence his appearance on this SPY "knock list."



movies (*Tin Cup*, *Happy Gilmore*) than baseball movies.

## FLY ME TO THE PLAYOFFS#74

**MISDEEDS:** Pro basketball and hockey games are now played in Continental Airlines Arena, the Delta Center, the United Center, USAir Arena, and Air Canada Arena.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** There is no Valujet Square Garden.

## TYSON FIGHTS#75

**MISDEEDS:** In four fights since being released from prison, Mike Tyson has

earned \$80 million without ever giving value to his pay-per-view audience. • In his bout with Bruce Seldon, the fight time of 109 seconds was shorter than the national anthem (140 seconds), Tyson's walk into the ring (125 seconds), and the ring announcer's introductions (112 seconds). • Tupac Shakur was murdered as he drove from the fight to a Vegas nightclub.

## OTHER PEOPLE'S 100 LISTS#76

**MISDEEDS:** *Websight* magazine named the 100 Most Influential People on the Net. • The Massachusetts Audubon Society announced a list of the 100 most common birds in the area. • *Buzz* magazine's "100 Coolest People in L.A." included oldsters like Jennifer Jason Leigh, Sean Penn, and Bruce Springsteen, as well, cynically, as potential Laker ticket source Jerry West, the Lakers' general manager. **MACARENA BONUS!** The 1996 SPY 100 makes multiple references to the macarena.

## RUTH SHALIT#77

**MISDEEDS:** The media darling of the New Right was caught in at least three blatant acts of plagiarism and forced into sabbatical from her associate editorship of the *New Republic*. • Her circular defense, early on: "If I had committed plagiarism, I would not be employed at the *New Republic*."

## LOOK WHO'S NOT UNEMPLOYED#78

**MISDEEDS:** John Travolta resuscitated Gumpmania in the Scientology-themed *Phenomenon*. • Claimed the character in *Phenomenon*—a saintly mechanic who becomes superintelligent—is the closest he's ever come to portraying himself. • "By his own admission," said *Phenomenon* director Jon Turteltaub, "[John] needs to be hugged and kissed every morning and told how much you adore him."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Poor putz is mar-



ried to Kelly Preston, a woman who thinks Scientology is "radically cool."

## SMELL-EBRITY, INC.#79

**MISDEEDS:** Celebrities who entered the fragrance game and stank include: Cher, Sophia Loren, the Artist Formerly Known as Prince, Joan Collins, Gabriela Sabatini, and Catherine Deneuve. • Priscilla Presley introduced a fragrance called *Indian Summer*. • A fragrance bearing the name of her former husband, Elvis Presley, did not fare well, although "he would have been honored," she said. • Michael Jordan and *Baywatch* fragrances are also in the works.

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** Elizabeth Taylor said of Black Pearl: "It's my taste that I'm trying to put in a bottle."

• Surprisingly, it doesn't smell like prosciutto.

## KID GLOVE#80

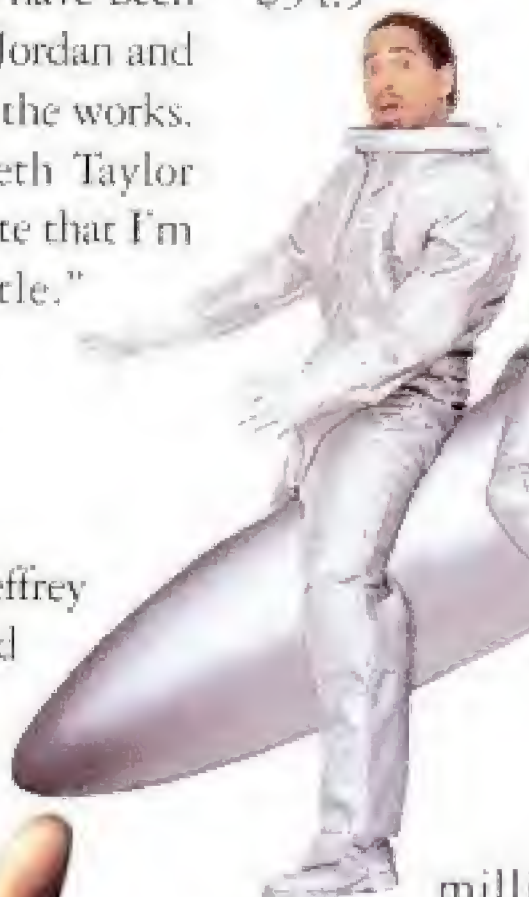
**MISDEEDS:** Twelve-year-old Jeffrey Maier reached over the right-field fence and interfered with what would have been a fly out during a Yankees-Orioles playoff game. It was ruled a home run for the Yankees, who subsequently won the game.

• Maier appeared on every talk show in America, had a sandwich named after him, and will have his own baseball card next year.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** He didn't even *catch* the ball (it bounced off his glove).

## JACKIE'S JUNK#81

**MISDEEDS:** Sotheby's took four days to sell 1,300 lots from Jackie O's estate, raking in \$34.5



million. • A bundle of old magazines, including copies of *Time*, *Life*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*, commanded \$12,650. • An old tape measure, \$45,000. • Three cushions, \$25,300. • Joan Rivers was so happy with the painting she bought for \$13,800 that she told

*Newsweek* she plans to be buried with it.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Arnold Schwarzenegger lost \$772,000 on JFK's old golf clubs, \$134,000 on a Norman Rockwell portrait of Kennedy, and \$189,000 on a leather desk set.

## NETWORKS IN DA HOUSE!#83

**MISDEEDS:** While the four major networks gave black audiences a fairly wide berth, the two minor networks cynically catered to them with abysmal shows such as *Homeboys from Outer Space*, *The Wayans Brothers*, and *The Jamie Foxx Show*. • NBC dumped *In the House*, starring rapper LL Cool J, for *The Jeff Foxworthy Show*, starring self-proclaimed red-neck Jeff Foxworthy.

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** Though *Friends* is number 2 with white audiences, it ranks an understandable number 118 with black audiences. • Gotta love *Moesha*.

## THE ROUGE CURTAIN#84

**MISDEEDS:** More than 15,000 Avon ladies work in Russia. • They don't go door to door because "Russians are afraid to open their door to strangers," according to the Avon national sales director. Instead, their selling sites include park benches and factories.

• Many Avon workers were trained as engineers, surgeons, physicists, and teachers. • An area manager makes almost 17 times the average national salary.

## BOB McNAMARA#85

**MISDEEDS:** Wrote sappy memoir apologizing for having started Vietnam War. • Self-indulgent attempt to heal old wounds only ripped open scabs.

• Told critic in Harvard audience who asked why his friends had to die in Vietnam, "You're going to have to read the book... Shut up!"

## THE SINISTER MINISTER#82

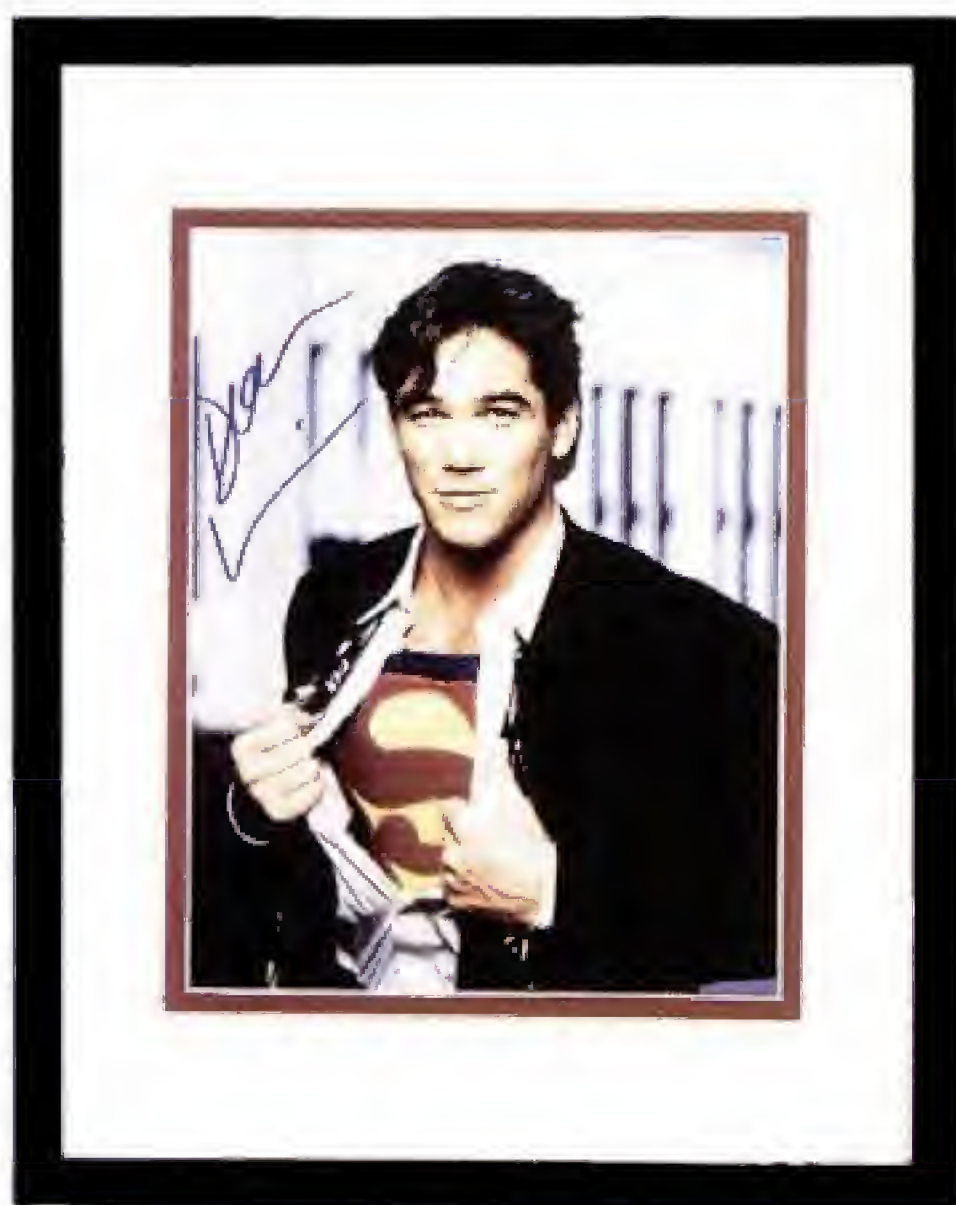
**MISDEEDS:** Farrakhan tried to accept a \$1 billion gift from Gadhafi. • Denied he was an agent of foreign governments. • Also met with Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha. • Called trip "The World Friendship Tour." • Al Sharpton called it "inspiring to see world leaders respecting African-American leadership on a global stage." • Farrakhan called for opposing sanctions on Nigeria.

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** When JFK junior visited his house, Farrakhan made him put on little white ankle socks that he calls "foot-sies." • He also had lava lamps in his closet.



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 Kenneth Branagh - \$50  
 Pierce Brosnan - \$55  
 Sandra Bullock - \$65  
 Nicolas Cage - \$45  
 Dean Cain - \$60  
 John Candy - \$75

Jim Carrey - \$75  
 Jackie Chan - \$45  
 Claudia Christian - \$45  
 George Clooney - \$50  
 Jennifer Connelly - \$50  
 Sean Connery - \$125  
 Kevin Costner - \$75  
 Courteney Cox - \$55  
 Tom Cruise - \$110  
 Jamie Lee Curtis - \$60  
 Ellen Degeneres - \$45  
 Dana Delaney - \$50  
 Robert Deniro - \$95  
 Johnny Depp - \$55  
 Cameron Diaz - \$50  
 Leonardo DiCaprio - \$50  
 Michael Douglas - \$65  
 Fran Drescher - \$40  
 David Duchovny - \$60  
 Clint Eastwood - \$75  
 Erika Eleniak - \$65  
 Ralph Fiennes - \$55  
 Linda Fiorentino - \$50  
 Carrie Fisher - \$40  
 Bridget Fonda - \$75  
 Harrison Ford - \$150  
 Jodie Foster - \$150  
 Richard Gere - \$75  
 Mel Gibson - \$125  
 Hugh Grant - \$55  
 Mark Hamill - \$50  
 Linda Hamilton - \$50  
 Tom Hanks - \$75  
 Woody Harrelson - \$45  
 Teri Hatcher - \$65  
 Lauren Holly - \$50  
 Dennis Hopper - \$50  
 Helen Hunt - \$50  
 Samuel L. Jackson - \$50  
 Tommy Lee Jones - \$75  
 Harvey Keitel - \$50  
 Nicole Kidman - \$60  
 Val Kilmer - \$60  
 Stephen King - \$75  
 Natassja Kinski - \$50  
 Christopher Lambert - \$50  
 Jay Leno - \$40  
 Tea Leoni - \$40  
 David Letterman - \$65  
 Daniel Day Lewis - \$75  
 Juliette Lewis - \$50  
 Heather Locklear - \$65  
 Traci Lords - \$50  
 George Lucas - \$95  
 David Lynch - \$50  
 Michael Madsen - \$45  
 Julianna Margulies - \$45  
 Mary S. Masterson - \$60  
 Samantha Mathis - \$45  
 Alyssa Milano - \$50  
 Demi Moore - \$125  
 Julianne Moore - \$45  
 Kate Mulgrew - \$65  
 Eddie Murphy - \$75

Paul Newman - \$95  
 Jack Nicholson - \$75  
 Leonard Nimoy - \$75  
 Gena Lee Nolan - \$45  
 Chris O'Donnell - \$55  
 Rosie O'Donnell - \$40  
 Gary Oldman - \$55  
 Julia Ormond - \$50  
 Al Pacino - \$75  
 Gwyneth Paltrow - \$45  
 Mary Louise Parker - \$50  
 Sarah Jessica Parker - \$45  
 Adrian Paul - \$50  
 Sean Penn - \$50  
 Matthew Perry - \$45  
 Michelle Pfeiffer - \$125  
 River Phoenix - \$195  
 Brad Pitt - \$65  
 Robert Redford - \$95  
 Christopher Reeve - \$60  
 Keanu Reeves - \$65  
 Michael Richards - \$45  
 Julia Roberts - \$195  
 Tim Roth - \$45  
 Kurt Russell - \$50  
 Rene Russo - \$45  
 Meg Ryan - \$75  
 Winona Ryder - \$95  
 Susan Sarandon - \$55  
 A. Schwarzenegger - \$125  
 David Schwimmer - \$45  
 Martin Scorsese - \$60  
 Steven Seagal - \$65  
 Jerry Seinfeld - \$60  
 William Shatner - \$75  
 Charlie Sheen - \$50  
 Elisabeth Shue - \$45  
 Alicia Silverstone - \$60  
 Christian Slater - \$55  
 Kevin Sorbo - \$40  
 Mira Sorvino - \$45  
 James Spader - \$45  
 Steven Spielberg - \$95  
 Sylvester Stallone - \$95  
 Howard Stern - \$110  
 Patrick Stewart - \$75  
 Sharon Stone - \$75  
 Meryl Streep - \$65  
 Sherry Stringfield - \$45  
 Kristy Swanson - \$50  
 Patrick Swayze - \$55  
 Quentin Tarantino - \$60  
 Tiffani A. Thiessen - \$55  
 Emma Thompson - \$60  
 Uma Thurman - \$65  
 Nancy Travis - \$45  
 John Travolta - \$55  
 Liv Tyler - \$50  
 J.C. Van Damme - \$75  
 Denzel Washington - \$55  
 Sigourney Weaver - \$50  
 Robin Williams - \$50  
 Bruce Willis - \$75  
 Noah Wyle - \$45

## Music

Tori Amos - \$55  
 Pat Benetar - \$45  
 Jon Bon Jovi - \$55  
 Bono - \$95  
 David Bowie - \$75  
 Garth Brooks - \$55  
 Jimmy Buffett - \$45  
 Mariah Carey - \$75  
 Eric Clapton - \$75  
 Kurt Cobain - \$250  
 Elvis Costello - \$55  
 Sheryl Crow - \$55  
 Celine Dion - \$50  
 Bob Dylan - \$350  
 Melissa Etheridge - \$55  
 Peter Dinklage - \$65  
 Jerry Garcia - \$225  
 David Gilmour - \$75  
 Sammy Hagar - \$45  
 George Harrison - \$295  
 Deborah Harry - \$45  
 Faith Hill - \$50  
 Whitney Houston - \$75  
 Janet Jackson - \$95  
 Michael Jackson - \$250  
 Mick Jagger - \$175  
 Billy Joel - \$75  
 Elton John - \$75  
 Lenny Kravitz - \$50  
 K.D. Lang - \$55  
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 Natalie Merchant - \$55  
 George Michael - \$75  
 Alanis Morissette - \$95  
 Stevie Nicks - \$75  
 Joan Osbourne - \$50  
 Ozzy Osbourne - \$55  
 Jimmy Page - \$75  
 Tom Petty - \$95  
 Liz Phair - \$55  
 Robert Plant - \$75  
 Prince - \$350  
 Trent Reznor - \$60  
 Keith Richards - \$95  
 Axl Rose - \$65  
 David Lee Roth - \$45  
 Frank Sinatra - \$250  
 Bruce Springsteen - \$200  
 Paul Stanley - \$40  
 Rod Stewart - \$75  
 Sting - \$65  
 Barbra Streisand - \$250  
 Shania Twain - \$55  
 Steven Tyler - \$55  
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 Eddie Vedder - \$65  
 Vanessa Williams - \$55  
 Neil Young - \$95  
 Frank Zappa - \$295

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## DENNIS RODMAN #88

**MISDEEDS:** The Chicago Bulls' flamboyant rebound king won the NBA championship with a very silly hairdo. • Continued to brag about having slept with Madonna. • Opened a nightclub with a symbol for a name. • After announcing he was getting married at Rockefeller Center, showed up as the bride in a white dress. • Guest starred on the September season opener of *3rd Rock from the Sun*. • Hosts his own show on MTV, *Dennis Rodman World Tour*. • On Cindy Crawford's MTV show *House of Style*, Rodman modeled skimpy Speedo swimsuits with her help. • His memoir, *As Bad as I Wanna Be*, is in its seventh printing, with four straight weeks at number one.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:**  
14.9 rebounds  
a game.

**MACARENA BONUS!** Say his name quickly.

## SOCCER MOMS #86

**MISDEEDS:** First came the angry white males; now the hot demographic is the soccer moms. • Their "angry" husbands gave us the 104th Congress. • Soccer moms are said to lean toward Clinton, yet are a "swing" voting group. • "Swing" voting has nothing to do with Roger Stone nor his wife.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** They're moms!

## CRASHING #87

**MISDEEDS:** In October, a relatively new jetliner carrying 70 people crashed off the Peruvian coast. The pilot radioed Lima, "The computers have gone crazy."

- Investigators never ruled out that TWA flight 800 was brought down by a missile mistakenly fired by an American warship.
- An exploding oxygen generator led to the May crash of ValuJet flight 592 in the Everglades.
- At ValuJet, top execs answer their own phones and work off desks bought at discount stores.
- Many of ValuJet's pilots earn about half the industry average.

## MIGHTY JOE WALDHOLTZ #89

**MISDEEDS:** Early last winter Utah representative Enid Waldholtz's husband went on the lam, while the Justice Department sought him as a grand jury material witness to bank fraud schemes in Salt Lake City and Washington. • A grand jury indicted Joseph Waldholtz in May for writing \$3 million in bad checks. • Vowing to "paint

myself yellow and sing like a canary," he pleaded guilty to four fraud charges related to wife Edith's 1994 campaign.

- Free on bail, Joe Waldholtz was jailed in September for allegedly using heroin and cutting more bad checks.

## MADONNA AND CHILD #91

**MISDEEDS:** Madonna named her baby girl Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon, the rank unpronounceability of which prompted rumors that she might be ♀'s love child. • Lourdes's pediatrician is Dr. Paul Fleiss, Heidi's father.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Ten tiny fingers, ten tiny toes.

## MAYOR McFORMAGGIO #92

**MISDEEDS:** New York's foreign minister Rudy Giuliani pissed off the State Department by evicting Yasir Arafat from Lincoln Center during the U.N.'s 50th anniversary celebration. • Traveled to Israel to express sympathy for victims of recent bombings and used the occasion to take further digs at Arafat: "Remember if you are asking something of him, you need more proof

## TAG, YOU'RE "IT!" #90

**MISDEEDS:** Although only a year ago Gwyneth Paltrow was known mostly for being Brad Pitt's girlfriend and an appearance as a disembodied head in *Seven*, she became instantly hot in '96, simultaneously appearing on the covers of *US*, *New York*, and *Vogue*. • Matthew McConaughey, the former star of *The Return of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, was suddenly on the covers of *Interview*, *Vanity Fair*, *Texas Monthly*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. • Although she can't act, sing, or dance, MTV's *Singled Out* prop/copresenter Jenny McCarthy appeared on four magazine covers in the same week: *Rolling Stone*, *Playboy*, *TV Guide*, and *YM*.

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** McCarthy's manager-boyfriend also managed Suzanne Somers. • McConaughey chose to appear in the ridiculous Bill Murray-plus-elephant movie *Larger than Life*.





that it is going to be carried out than if you asked that of someone else."

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** Cool comb-over.

## "DON'T GO THERE" #93

**MISDEEDS:** Whoopi Goldberg uttered these words during the Academy Awards.

• It became the country's most nauseating catchphrase.

## WILD, CRAZY RENAISSANCE MAN #94

**MISDEEDS:** Former goofball Steve Martin has said he's more interested in his new career as an artsy Manhattan playwright than in making movies.

• *Sgt. Bilko* and *Father of the Bride Part 2* bear him out. • An *Esquire* magazine interview described Martin as having everything "all other men could want—talent, money, respect, freedom, fame, a brilliant art collection, a cast of loyal old friends and discreet young girlfriends." • He was able to afford his discreet young friends with paychecks like the \$7 million he received for *Sgt. Bilko*.

## CULKIN' FOR DOLLARS #95

**MISDEEDS:** Macauley Culkin's parents, Patricia Bentrup and Kit Culkin, nearly bankrupted themselves in a custody fight over Mac and five of his siblings. • The child star, worth an estimated \$17 million, graciously offered to dip into his fortune to bail out the family. • His parents, who never married, rely on the 15 percent commission they take off Mac's earnings to survive, which earned them \$0 in 1996.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:** 20th Century Fox replaced Macauley for *Home Alone III*.

## V.P. CANDIDATES' HAIR #96

**MISDEEDS:** Bob Dole said of his 1996 running mate in 1985, "Kemp wants a business deduction for hair spray."

• Because of his "perfect hair," Al Gore was once confused with Missouri Senator Kit Bond while Bond was dining with Tom Foley and Alan Greenspan. • Senator Chuck Robb remarked about Al Gore at a Washington stag party in 1993: "We used to play chicken by standing in a strong wind and seeing whose hair moved first."

**MITIGATING FACTORS:** Ross Perot's hir-

sute running mate Pat Choate got the call in spite of the wacky Texan's famous intolerance of facial hair.

## LESS FAT, MORE DIARRHEA #97

**MISDEEDS:** Critics say olestra causes digestive disorders and prevents the absorption of vitamins, and the FDA has required product labels that warn of "loose stools" and "abdominal cramping." • Center for Science in the Public Interest wanted the olestra label to read, in part: "Olestra can cause underwear staining, anal leakage, greasy bowel movements, and oil in the toilet." • "It tastes like a very old fish brought out of a very new oil spill," said George Will.

**MITIGATING FACTOR:**

Procter & Gamble has spent an estimated \$300 million in promoting and developing olestra.

## NEWSWEAKLIES #98

**MISDEEDS:** *Newsweek's* editor Maynard Parker knew who Anonymous was and abetted Joe Klein's deception, even as his magazine considered other possible suspects.

• *Newsweek* probably brought about Admiral Boorda's suicide. • *Time* did a puff piece about how Dick Morris had Bill Clinton's ear just days before his sex scandal broke. • In lieu of real news, *Newsweek* and *Time* both featured alien-themed covers the same week.

**MACARENA BONUS!**

*Newsweek's* illustrated guide to

macarena-ing was incorrect!

## BEYOND THE HOMODOME #99

**MISDEEDS:** Mel Gibson upset the gay community with the line from *Braveheart*: "Toss the poof out of the window." The movie treats Prince Edward as a mincing queen, and the one death that's played for laughs is the murder of the prince's gay lover. • In 1992, he was named Sissy of the Year by the *Advocate* magazine for comments like, "I became an actor despite [people possibly thinking he was homosexual]. But with this look, who's going to think I'm gay? Do I look like a homosexual? Do I talk like them? Do I move like them?"

• Stormed out of the MTV movie awards because he didn't like the way Janeane Garofalo had interviewed him.

## THE SIMPSON #100

**MISDEEDS:** O.J.'s Brentwood neighbors have repeatedly asked him to move. • Appearing in England at the historic Oxford Union debating society, Juice was asked how God would receive him on Judgment Day: "Well, I haven't exactly been monogamous. In terms of these murders, I feel at peace with myself." • The Union gave him a standing ovation for explaining that he fled in the Bronco because "I had a tough week." • Made \$150,000 or so selling interviews to British and international media. • Wife beater Simpson hosted "Stop the Violence—Increase the Peace," an invitation-only, fund-raising dinner for domestic abuse charities, last June at his estate.







Q



# Big Picture Invade It!

Big year for space, 1996 was. Life—*life!*—pops up on other planets. Astronautrix Shannon Lucid spends a record-breaking nine months romping with former communists on space station *Mir*. Pluto gets relegated to asteroid status. A new zodiac sign is discovered. Yep, 1996 was a big year for space, alright. But since when did space have “big years,” like it was just some cheesy Midwestern mutual fund? On the 20 billionth anniversary of the original Uranus joke, SPY reaches for the stars and discovers that they’re not so hot after all. **By Bruno Maddox**

## Drinking It All In

The best thing about booze is all the different ways there are of being drunk. You can feel completely sober, only your legs don’t work. You can feel giddy and vivacious like a Jane Austen character at her first ball. Or if you’re a particular sort of sad blowhard, you can become increasingly *au fait* with the ins and outs of high-level astrophysics. Rocking back on your heels, Glenlivet clinking in your tufted fingers, you let slip a little cosmic perspective. “Yes, the universe is relatively young, actually.” Sip, grimace. “Maybe only 20 billion years or so.” Hours later, the evening crashing slowly down around your ears, you slide off your chair, unnoticed. “Against the infinite vastness of the universe,” you bubble, “the rise and fall of nations are completely irrelevant, tiny ripples in the cosmic ocean.” Your friends leave. The bar closes. Ninety-something million miles away, a

darkened sun steams purposefully through the ether. You flail for it as you would a life preserver.

In human society, it has always made sense to present yourself as the guy who sees the Big Picture, the bearded sage sitting on top of the mountain. When the villagers below get into fights about whose dog ate whose chicken, or whose farmhand sexed up whose milkmaid, they respectfully climb the mountain and talk to the man from whose perspective the milkmaids resemble little pieces of walking lint and the chickens are invisible. Big Picture guys don’t get bogged down with details; they’re too busy tracing the arc of the moon beyond the clouds. They’re the coolest guys around. They always seem to know the right thing to say.

Here in the 20th century, until very recently, you could impress people in the same sort of way by talking about space. Against what we now know about the awesome size and

**Photography by Frank Veronsky**



wondrousness of the universe, any human issue you can think of seems pretty trivial. Until this year, all you had to do was mention the 400 billion suns just like our own in this galaxy, or that the universe is curved, and whoever you were conversing with would look at you with a new respect. Knowing about space made you the ultimate Big Picture guy.

Until this year. 1996 was the year cracks started to appear in space's glitzy facade, when its slip started to show, when it finally lost a step. In fact, the word around the NASA coffee machine—and in the rec room beneath the world's largest telescope in Mauna Kea, Hawaii—the word is that space actually isn't that great.

## The Little Planet That Couldn't

Pluto, for instance, has turned out not to be a planet. The distant ninth rock from the sun, hyped for decades as the plucky loner of the solar system, was unceremoniously reclassified as an asteroid. It was not a dramatic fall from grace. No paparazzo caught Pluto swap-

ping saliva with fellow asteroids in some cosmic men's room. Nor did it explode. The *cosmoscenti* simply decided that at a mere 1,430 miles wide and with a freakishly distended oval orbit, the rocky ice ball—after 66 years in the big leagues—should never have been called a planet in the first place. The debate was not over whether Pluto existed but over whether Pluto sucked, and the consensus was that it did.

Sentimentalists leapt to Pluto's defense, pointing out that not only is it round, as a planet should be, but it also has its own moon, called Charon, which surely proves it is a planet. They were laughed out of court. Pluto has a moon, alright. Charon's feeble gravitational field has raised a huge welt on Pluto's surface. You could only call it round if your idea of *round* is a sort of blobby Jay Leno shape. Additionally, sneered the skeptics, Pluto's moon had not been named Charon (pronounced "Karon") after the glamorous figure from classical mythology who rowed the Boat of the Dead across the river Styx, but Charon (pronounced "Sharon") after its discoverer's main squeeze, Charlene. Like the famous cartoon dog of the same name—like all dogs, in fact—post-'96 Pluto is a symbol of well-meaning ineptitude: a whimpering cur unable to comprehend why it's not being congratulated for having just hunted down and killed the half gram of cocaine you left on the coffee table.

Pluto's humiliation came hard on the heels of the discovery by Jacqueline Mitton of Britain's Royal Astronomical Society that the zodiac—the 12 astrological signs that are supposed to determine at the moment of your birth whether you'll be calm and dependable or a vomit-spattered, wailing alcoholic—makes even less sense than it has famously not

made for centuries. In the 2,000 years since an ancient council of morons designed the system, Earth's axis has shifted against the sky, making room for a new 13th sign of the zodiac. Those of us who were formerly swanning into singles bars clad in the knowledge that we were Scorpios and therefore doomed to get laid, it turns out, were just winging it—we may have been Virgos all the time. The new sign, incidentally, is known as Ophiuchus, Latin for "cheese monkey." Why the ancient Romans had a word for "cheese monkey" in the first place is a mystery—unless it had something to do with those rubbery primates who would swing down from the aqueducts and scare the piss out of the dancing girls before making off with the Gruyère.

But the headlines in 1996 went to Mars, the nearby reddish planet traditionally associated with war and aliens. An Antarctic exploring party, of the sort that used to lose most of its members to frostbite and then heroically fail to reach its destination, found a Martian meteorite at the bottom of a crevasse. Splitting it open out of hunger, they discovered various fossilized relics: relics not actually of Martian microbes but of chemical processes that Martian microbes might have been involved in (see page 53).

The world's media decided to take the high road about the whole thing and

be excited, despite the fact that humankind's longest-enduring dream—that there was some kind of life-form in the solar system that we could have wars with—had been fatally besmirched by a splodge of dead germs. All we can hope for now is to watch on TV as some shaggy-permed lady physicist flies up and methodically stomps on the bastards. Not the same thing at all.

Basically, space today is where the Italian parliamentary system was two years ago. Once a glamorous posse of powerful, hairless playboys, space is presently in the throes of debunking itself, somehow managing to lose a member a month in gritty *braps* of anticlimactic corruption and imploding glamour. Space is no big deal anymore. It's the sort of place you could forget to check after you've looked everywhere else for your wallet. The question is no longer how we feeble earthlings can keep our self-respect against the infinitely humbling and unfathomable backdrop of space; the question now—the existential *crisis*—is where on earth we got the idea that space was so wonderful in the first place.

## Masters of the Universe

We got the idea from people like Carl Sagan and Stephen Hawking, people who announce that there are 500 billion galaxies in the universe at conversational junctures that the rest of us might exploit to announce that we're starting to feel rather hungry. To these grandiose individuals, to these cosmic



# 15 Things We Now Know About the Martian Microbes

In August of last year, scientists discovered some tiny little bacteria fossils inside a potato-sized meteorite from Mars. Months of electron microscope work later, Jamie Malanowski sizes up the philosophical implications of the new cosmic diaspora for those of us stuck here on Earth.

1. Martians still a long way from challenging Dream Team supremacy at the Olympics.
2. Clearly more of a Cartoon Network than a PBS demographic.
3. Flying saucers and ray guns: as if!
4. Whitewater: way too complicated for them, too!
5. Seemingly not all that cuddly, but you know if Michael Eisner can make 80 million off a hunchback, he's going to find some way to cash in on these guys as well.
6. Not an obviously extravagant life-form: basic outfits, no jewelry; most likely would have dropped out of the Jackie O. auction bidding way early.
7. Although they are an alien life-form that is in this country legally, under the new welfare laws, ironically, they will not be eligible for public assistance.
8. Martians have no idea why Andy Garcia isn't a megastar either.
9. It's really more like *Mold Is from Mars*, isn't it? Earthling invasion force will be armed with Pine Sol.
10. Without wishing to disparage their business acumen, it doesn't take Warren Buffet to see that it shouldn't take us \$24 in trinkets to acquire ourselves a new planet from this crew.
11. *Trainspotting*: right over their heads. Even with the dubbed dialogue.
12. Those plans for *Martian Vogue*: probably premature.
13. The macarena has yet to explode there. Probably still more of a lambada ("the forbidden dance") kind of planet.
14. They came in peace. Which should count for something.
15. And tonight Katie Couric sleeps peacefully, confident that she is still the perkiest thing in the Milky Way.







## Special Relativity:

If you're traveling fast through space, claimed Albert Einstein, things will seem normal (far left). But if you then glimpse a friend *going in a different direction* (left), it could be weird. Your friend may seem older and slightly fatter than you remember, and may not wave. This is, however, just a peculiar space illusion.

## How to Think in Four Dimensions:

Our puny human senses only allow us to see in three dimensions: height, width, and depth (below left). The fourth dimension is time. If someone gave you a special pair of glasses that allowed you to see in four dimensions, objects would appear to be streaming backward *into the past* (below right). Let's say someone had just had a nose job. In four dimensions, you would theoretically be able to peer over their shoulder and see them standing there *with their old nose!*



## The Life Cycle of the Sun:

At press time, the star we know as "the sun" is in very good shape: lustrous, radiant, and a healthy yellow color (above left). Beachgoers will be disappointed to learn, however, that in six billion years or so, the sun will have exhausted its supply of hydrogen and smoldered down to a frozen cinder called a black dwarf (above right)—at which point a disgusting cosmic rotting smell may possibly start to spread throughout the entire solar system.

## The Big Bang:

It may sound incredible, but once upon a time the *entire universe* was contained inside a tiny blob of undifferentiated matter (right). And then one day, for reasons nobody really understands, the blob suddenly exploded, to form the wide assortment of people and objects that we know today (far right).



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS TRAYER



# Voice from the Void

Lady astronaut Dr. Ellen Baker was aboard the space shuttle *Atlantis* last June when two Russians and one grateful American were retrieved from the space station *Mir* in a historic docking maneuver. SPY recently caught up with Dr. Baker to find out if the most hyped entity in history, space, is really as "awesome" as it's cracked up to be.

**SPY:** Dr. Baker, you've spent nearly 700 hours in space. Is that correct?

**BAKER:** Er...let me think.

**SPY:** I guess it's hard to say, 'cause when are you really "in space"?

**BAKER:** About 30 days is what I've spent.

**SPY:** In a word, what was space like?

**BAKER:** Uh, in what respect?

**SPY:** I guess in terms of size. Was it big?

**BAKER:** [pause] It's huge. Not inside the shuttle, but the rest of it...the outside is big.

**SPY:** As big as people say?

**BAKER:** Er...yeah.

**SPY:** Most people would imagine that you would be swamped by feelings of insignificance, just suspended in the universe like that.

**BAKER:** Well, you have to remember that, for the most part, people in the Astronaut Office are trained professionals. We're not up there to look out the window and philosophize.

**SPY:** So you never wrote any poems or anything?

**BAKER:** No. But I'm not that kind of person anyway.

**SPY:** Was there much down-time? Did you guys party at all?

**BAKER:** Um, I never really had time on any of my missions to do what I would call "partying." My last mission was very, very busy. It was a docking mission.

**SPY:** Yeah, of course, er...historic. So, did you feel *infinitely* insignificant or just *very* insignificant?

**BAKER:** I guess I never really had any particular feelings that way brought on by my space flight. I'm sorry. People like to talk about that but I can't help you.





bores, this is how things should be. While the rest of us snurgle around in an earthbound sludge of genital warts and lottery tickets, the spatially aware would have us believe that mentally they are cruising past giant pineapple-shaped nebulae 12 billion light-years tall, helter-skeltering down four-dimensional wrinkles in the fabric of space-time, alertly enjoying the five willion years it takes a star to mature from a glowing cloud of gas to a scary black hole. As interstellar loudmouth Carl Sagan wrote in *Pale Blue Dot*, the follow-up to his multimillion-selling *Cosmos*, "Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark...[our wars are nothing more than] the squabble of mites on a plum." Yeah right, Carl. Only bigger.

Sagan's spacebore supremacy went unchallenged until 1988, when a ruthless pretender to his throne emerged in the compact shape of wheel-mounted glasses wearer Stephen Hawking. Sagan had hung out his Big-Picture-guy shingle on the assertion that there are 400 billion stars in our galaxy; Hawking took it to an entirely new level. Somehow it was inevitable that the guy who—through no fault of his own—can't even make it down to the corner for a pack of cigarettes

**Space is like the Joan Collins of unimaginably vast ontological units. Up close, it's all gas, dust, and fleshy gobbets of plasma.**

would be the one to come up with the idea that there are 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 other *universes*. Hawking, after all, needed a shot of instant sexiness much worse than Carl Sagan did, and the numbers he chose to bandy around were appropriately more mind-boggling.

With millions in the bank and his public reputation as a stargazing brain-in-a-vat secure, Hawking's terrestrial behavior became exuberantly Liam Gallagherish. In his most spectacular coup, after 26 years of dutiful care from his devoted wife Jane, Hawking somehow used the two functioning fingers on his left hand to woo away the wife of David Mason, the computer engineer who had custom built his electronic voice box. The scientific community was queasily appalled—but given the cheesy late-seventies timbre of Hawking's synthesized speaking voice, no one could really blame the sedentary cosmologist for trying to effect some kind of redress.

Bottom line: being able to think in billions (see page 54) gets you girls. Being the one guy at the party whose job it is to come up with a figure for the age of the universe, or to build nine-dimensional warp drives for spaceships, automatically puts you several rungs above the people paid to remove squirrels from other people's drains. Sagan and Hawking both played it to the max, snaring any opportunity to align themselves with the interstellar rather than the terrestrial. Sagan graced the dust jacket of *Pale Blue Dot* with his head dwarfing a Martian crater; Hawking had a torrent of galaxies glinting off his wheelchair's rubberized handles on the cover of *A Brief History of Time*. Does self-aggrandizement come in any purer,

more literal form? No. There is no difference between the man who uses space to imply his masterful grasp of the Big Picture and the man who in hushed tones touts a 14-inch cucumber in the grocery store as a perfect natural simulacrum of a "tiny" penis. They're both sick egotists.

## Where Nobody Can Hear You Yawn

But how big is space really? It's big. There's no getting around it. The universe is 90,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles in either direction, which is huge, when you think about it. Picture tens of hundreds of football fields laid end to end and you're still only about halfway there. Imagine your mother packed you a special magic bag of cosmic sandwiches (spinach and tofu, probably; right, kids?), and you lay down on the ground and started walking straight up from the surface of Earth. Even if you walked for a whole year,

allowing yourself maybe six hours of sleeping, eating, and bathroom time each day; even after that ridiculous effort, the edge of the universe would still be but a tantalizing glimmer in the middle distance. Yep, space is big, all right. But it's not *that* big. Not so big that anyone who manages to land a job thinking about it is automatically better than the rest of us. A million billion miles may *seem* like a long way, but when it's a million billion miles of utter nothingness, and spaceships happen to travel at five prillion miles per hour anyway—just 'cause that's how fast even the cheapest one goes, by law—then the grandiose 2001-style timpani inevitably start to bong a little flatter in your ears.

Nor are space's famously humbling baubles—the fiery nebulae, ringed planets, spiral galaxies, etc.—anything to write home about when you get right up to them. Space is like the Joan Collins of unthinkable vast ontological units: looks great from 500 billion light-years away, but get too close and it's all gas, dust, and fleshy gobbets of plasma. Whether or not it fascinates you that our sun converts four million tons of hydrogen to helium every second, you have to admit that if that's *all* it does, then what we're really talking about, in entertainment terms, is a depressing black hole. Compare the icy "grandeur" of space with a typical Thursday night here on Earth: Tongues of frozen margarita curling into the ribbed goblet you bought on vacation in Sweden. A wedge of lime. You flip on the TV: Hey, what do you know? It's boxing! The phone rings, you light a cigar...and in the four-foot sphere whose epicenter is your navel, the snottiest cosmologist in the world would have to admit that there is more going on—more pep; more vigor; more *je ne sais quoi*; even, crucially, more chemical diversity—than there is anywhere in the 96 glillion light-years between the poster of Christy Turlington on your ceiling and the edge of the universe itself. You think *you* feel insignificant. Think how space feels. ☾



# Shannon! And on... and on...

Nothing in space is quite as it appears. Take astronaut Shannon Lucid, for example. Having muscled her way into a traditionally male satellite of the military only to find herself trapped there, Lucid seemed at first glance to be none other than one-time Citadel coed Shannon *Faulkner* coming back for seconds. Not so, say the experts.

	LUCID	FAULKNER
FIRST NAME:	Shannon	Shannon
TIME SPENT IN CRAMPED QUARTERS, AIR THICK WITH STENCH OF MEN:	Six months, packed for four	Half a day, packed for four years
FACE LIKE:	Old boot fished out of river	Old man's bottom







# SPY's Best Bets

BY DAN BOVA

Was it not reggae perennials Inner Circle who asked the until now unanswerable question, "Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do?" They could almost have been talking to you, the new crop of free-living, amoral Americans only now coming of age, the so-called D-Generation. Your parents, of course, had the likes of the *New Yorker*, *New York* magazine, and the *Village Voice* to show them the ropes, to help them find their footing in the world's most difficult city. The "Best Bets" suggestions and "Best of Manhattan" issues of these periodicals were all fine and good if your idea of fun consisted of trekking to the Cutest Candle Shop in Manhattan with time left over to squeeze in a smooch at the Tristate Area's Most Romantic Shwarma Stand. However, if you're too young to know who Björn Borg is but you can download doctored photos of the Swedish Bikini Team, chances are you'd rather be wallowing in free food and booze and getting paid to masturbate. To that end, SPY humbly presents your very own Best Bets guide. We wrote it for you, so if you catch us fumbling for our bifocals in an alley some rainy night, don't get all Clockwork Orange on our asses.

Photography by Arlene Godfried





2. In a Tarzan frame of mind, our man treats himself—and his thirsty new suit!—to a refreshing draught of springwater, via the dribbliest and splashiest mode of drinking known to man.

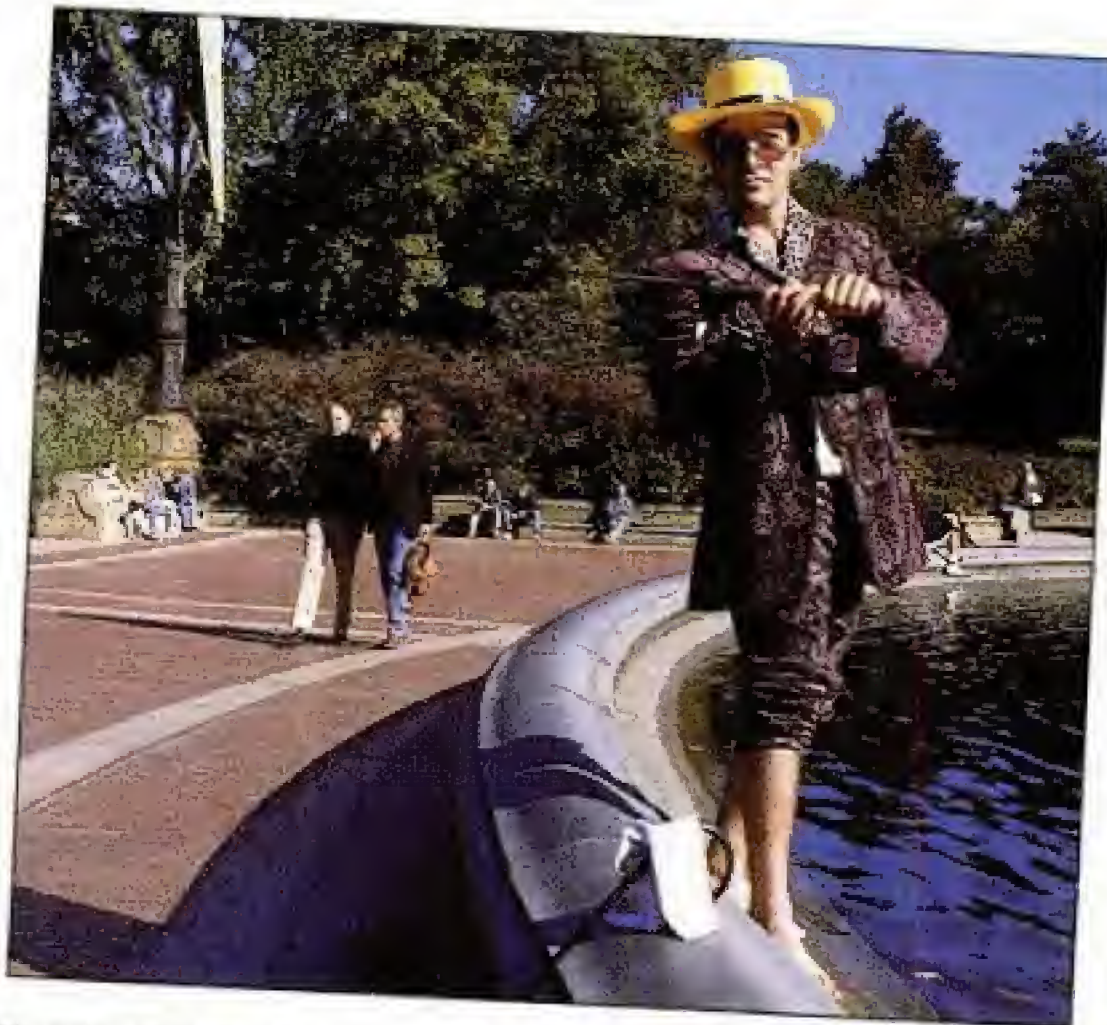


3. Bova gets a *pizza* the action in a local restaurant. No stain, no gain!

## Best Way to Free Style

Remember that treasured story about how Grampa scrimped and saved for 10 years just so he could buy a new suit for his first date with Gramma? Well, Grampa was an idiot. You don't actually have to spend money to look like a player—all you need is a credit card, a snazzy suit shop with a snazzy return policy, and a dream. All you gotta do is hold on to that receipt; just bring the threads back to the sucker you bought 'em from and head out the door for more. You'll be pimping into the next century.

1. At the barber's, hair and scented mousse are flying everywhere. Not to worry—the suit goes back tomorrow!



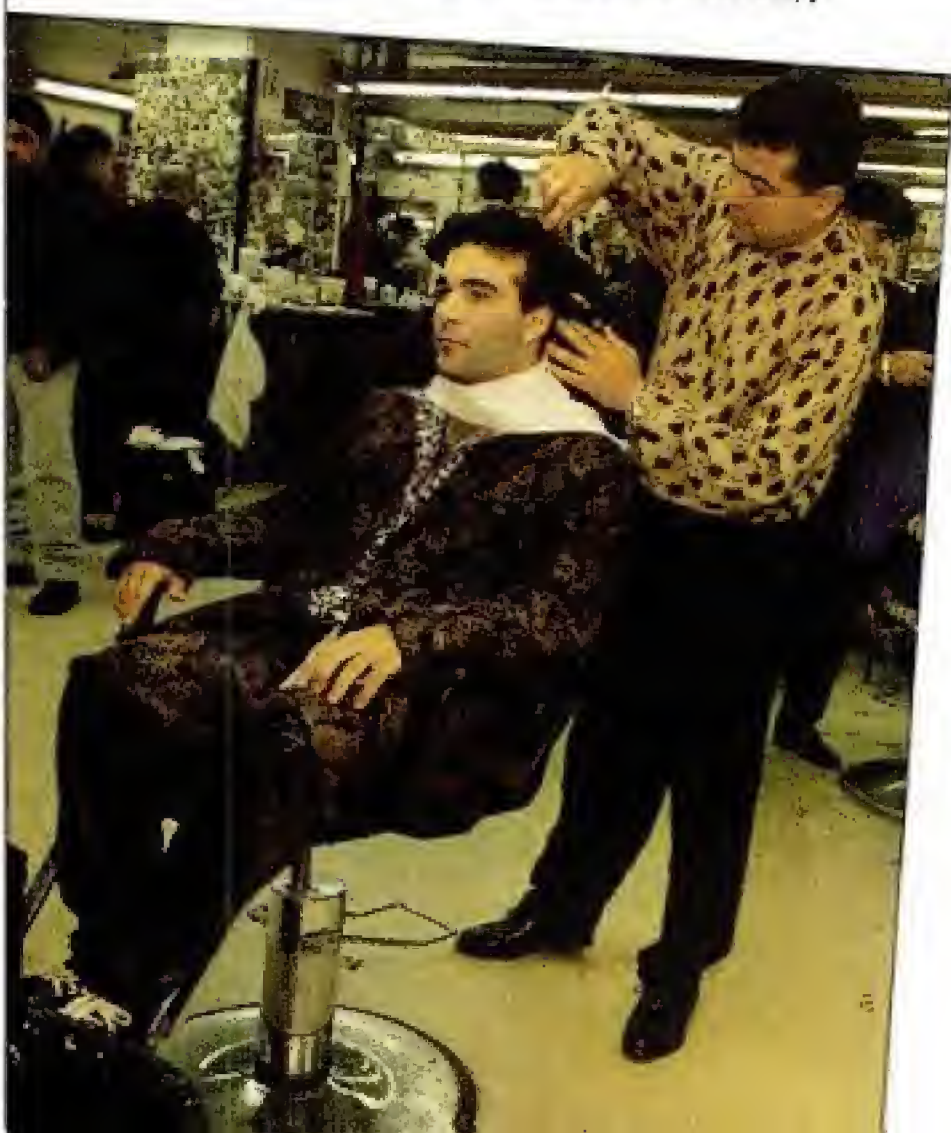
5. Bova gets set to break a young punk's nose en route to the hole. It's gonna be bloody!



4. Jacket and pants moving smoothly in unison, Bova's ensemble soaks up the sticky, acrid fumes of a New York traffic jam.



6. According to ancient Italian custom, SPY's representative fills his pockets with gutted trout and stinking pondweed (above), then curls up on a urinous, rodenty bench (right), tired but happy.





# Best Way to Screw a Cop

Rudolph Giuliani and his evil army of brown-shirted traffic Fascisti make a cool 55 bucks every time they give some poor schmuck a parking ticket. It's quite a little scam, actually. Truth is, you really *can* fight City Hall—guerrilla style—and you don't need any of those long-haired activists or namby-pamby leaflets. Just follow one of those bastard Brownies around with a pocketful of quarters, walking one car ahead of him. Every time he gets ready to write up a summons, drop one of those puppies in, and with a simple twist of the handle, feel yourself twist the knife into the back of the city, Orenthal-style.



# Best Way to Cop a Feel

There are three ways to get a gorgeous model to take her clothes off for you: 1) work as a photographer's apprentice, 2) start a rock band, sell out, and procure a huge pot belly, or 3) the easy way, the SPY way.

Run out and get yourself a cheap doctor's suit from a local costume shop, rent a van (with plenty of "storage space"), and memorize phrases like *mammotrope differentiating peptide*. Then find yourself a juicy parking spot outside Elite, Ford, Wilhelmina, or any of the other major-league modeling agencies, and soon enough, you'll know what's up, doc.

*SPY: Excuse me, miss, we're having a special today. Would you like an exam?*

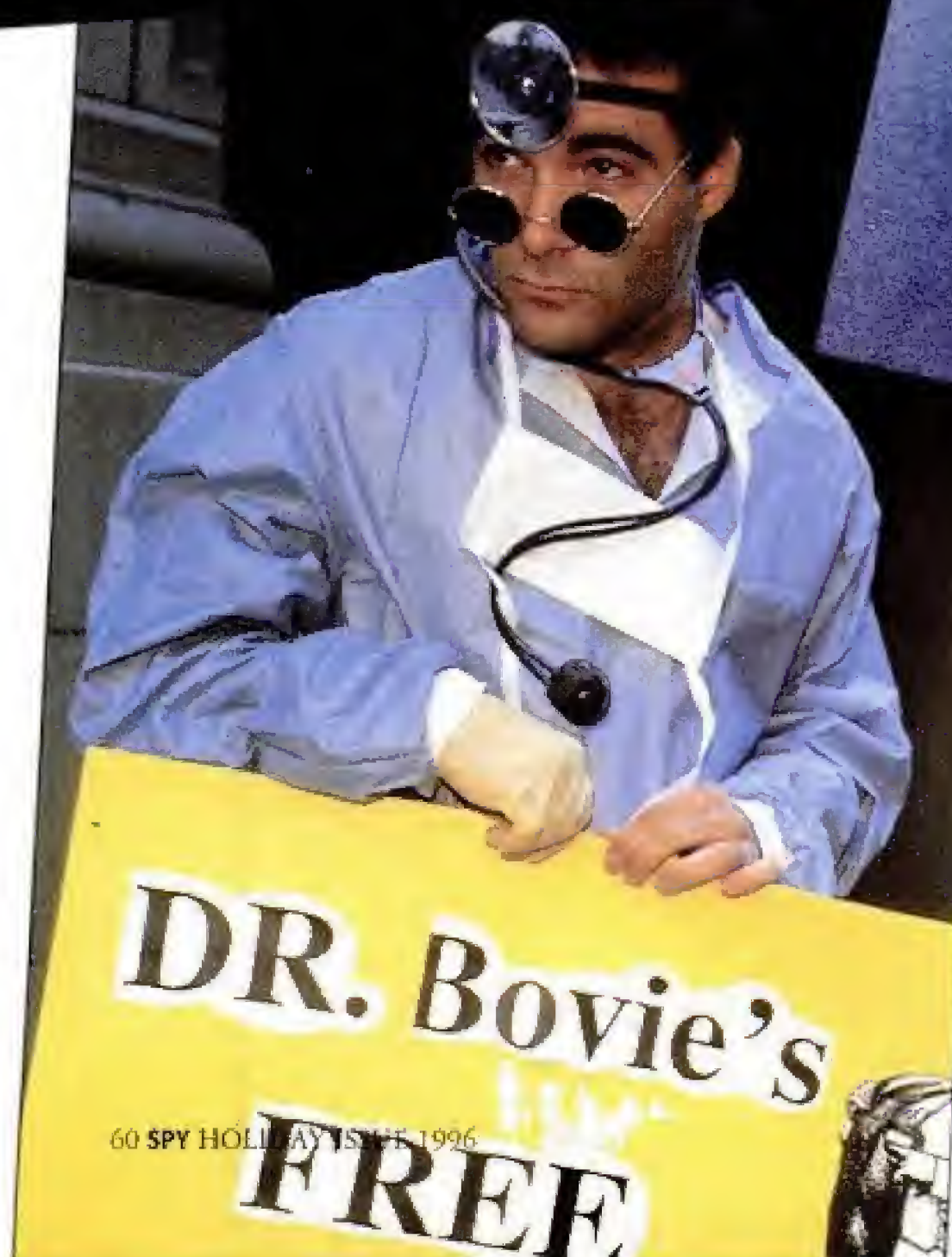
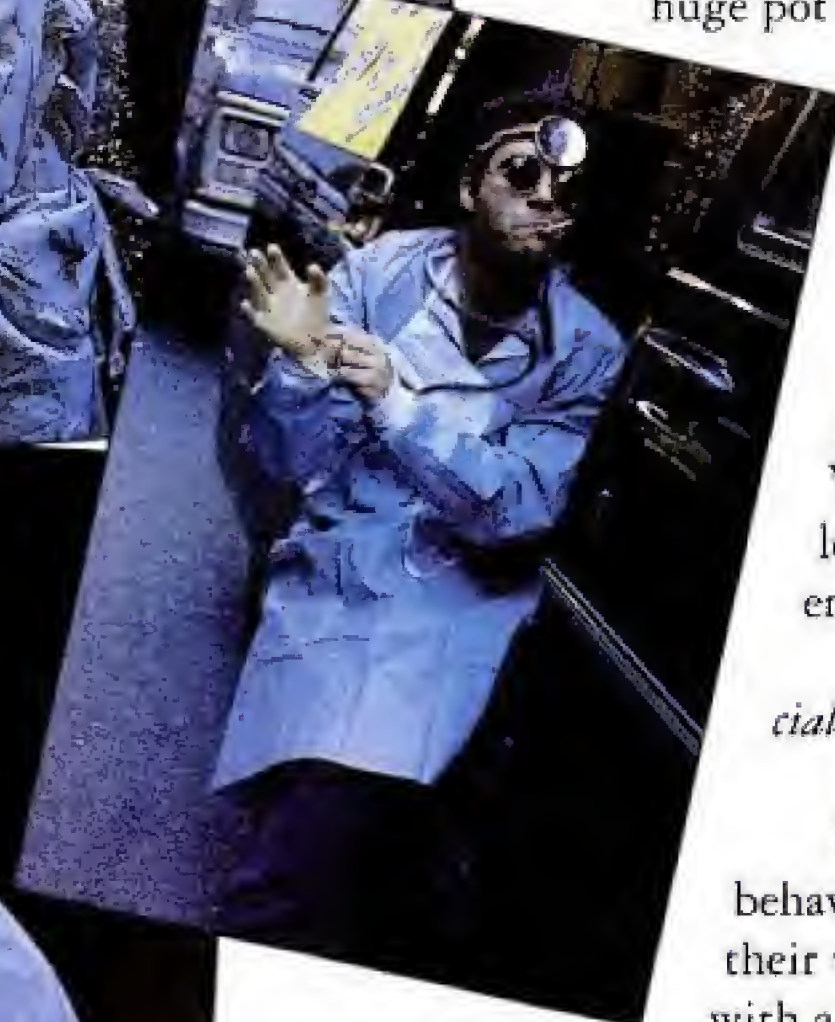
*Incredibly Hot Model: Don't come near me.*

Don't be confused by any standoffish behavior. Models can be persnickety. Ease their worries about discretion and privacy with a well-placed bumper sticker reading "If

This Van's A-Rockin', Don't Come A-Knockin'." Oh yeah, the doctor is definitely "in."

**(TOP) FEED A METER, STARVE A CITY.** Who would have thought that giving money to a bureaucracy was a way to tear it apart?

**THIS WON'T HURT A BIT.** This whole health care thing is so hard to comprehend. That's why America is turning to the healing hands of Dr. Bovie.





# Safest Deposit Boxes

Spend a lot of time "Petting Your Pretty Pony?" While most people do it as an amateur pastime, you can use your skills

to pay the bills. Just let your fingers do the walking. In the NYNEX Yellow Pages, wedged between "Speed Reading" and "Spices - Retail," sits your gold mine—"Sperm Banks." You will be paid \$50 every time you do that thing you do into a sterilized cup while enjoying first-rate porn. Below we compare NYC's major spunk banks and how they will affect your stroke.

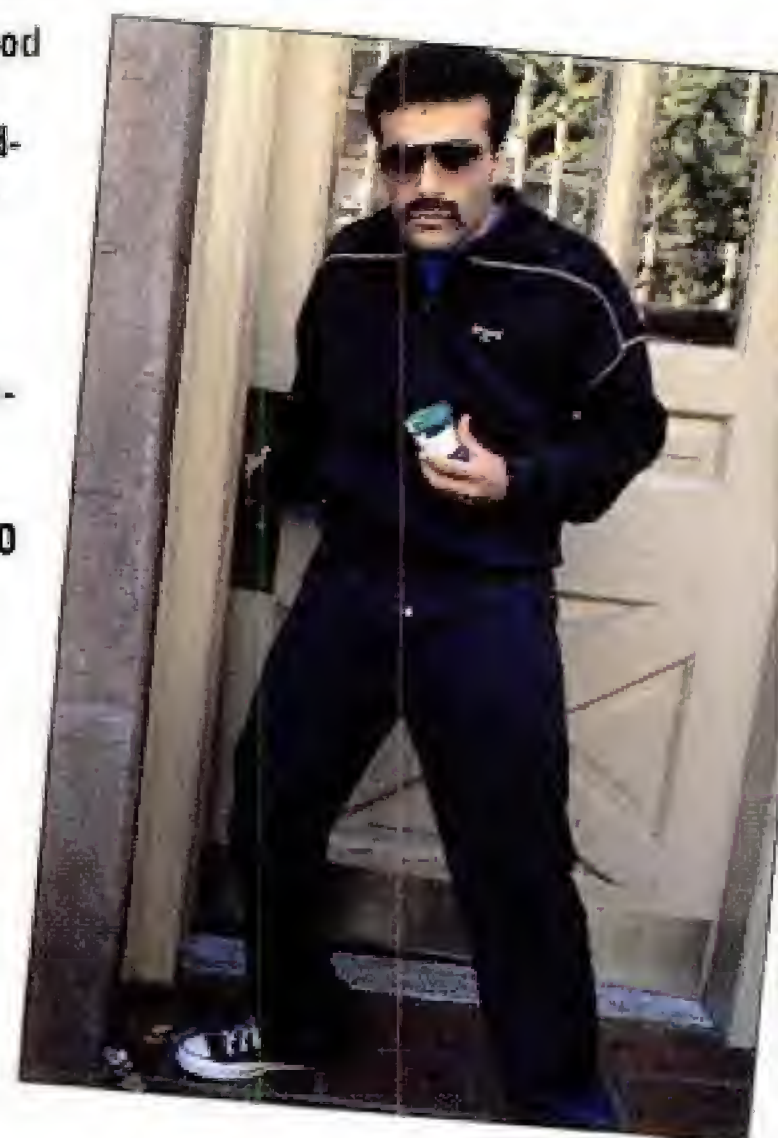
	REPRO LAB	IDANT LABORATORY
<b>LOCATION</b>	Nice, discreet brownstone on 30th Street between First and Second Avenues. <b>Stroke Factor: 8</b>	Tourist-laden Empire State Building (72nd floor), 34th Street. <b>Stroke Factor: 2</b>
<b>WAITING ROOM</b>	Pleasant environment: natural wood furniture; coffee-table reading ( <i>Châteaux of the Loire</i> ); Georgia O'Keeffe prints; drawing of a medieval English boy holding a test tube. <b>Stroke Factor: 6</b>	Creepy atmosphere: mismatched chairs; yucky paint job; large abstract painting of a watermelon. <b>Stroke Factor: 4</b>
<b>OTHER JERKY BOYS</b>	Quiet, reserved guys sitting around, patiently waiting their turn. <b>Stroke Factor: 5</b>	One George Wendt-ish guy, who everyone knew by name, proudly dropped off his work. <b>Stroke Factor: 1</b>
<b>QUESTIONNAIRE</b>	"If you are of Jewish ancestry, have you ever tested as a carrier of Tay-Sachs disease?" <b>Stroke Factor: 3</b>	"Do you or have you ever enjoyed exchanging fluids other than vaginal or saliva (feces, urine, etc.)?" <b>Stroke Factor: 1</b>
<b>"THE STAR CHAMBER"</b>	Spacious: Low, sexy incandescent lighting, carpeting, stainless steel sink, Lysol spray. <b>Stroke Factor: 7</b>	Like a closet: "Room B" was a cramped room with fluorescent lighting, a small end table, a trash can, and brown, tired carpeting. <b>Stroke Factor: 3</b>
<b>ON THE WALLS</b>	Pet of the Year poster featuring Miss Andi Sue Irwin; 1993 <i>Sports Illustrated</i> swimsuit calendar. <b>Stroke Factor: 9</b>	Kick marks and sneaker treads. <b>Stroke Factor: -2</b>
<b>THE HOT SEAT</b>	Black leather chair (with matching footrest) protected by disposable sanitary paper. <b>Stroke Factor: 6</b>	Brown leather chair with dribble marks on front of seat. <b>Stroke Factor: 1</b>



When visiting the neighborhood sperm bank, a good disguise always helps prevent a considerable amount of embarrassment, not to mention performance anxiety. Here, Dan has gone with the Freddie Mercury-meets-Run-DMC look.

**DING DONG: I'M HERE TO PLAY WITH MY DING-A-LING!** Once our repro man gives something away, he doesn't try to take it back!

His work done, our man collects a tidy paycheck and awaits the family reunion in 25 years.



<b>LITERATURE</b>	A large library of <i>Penthouses</i> and <i>Playboys</i> dating all the way back to 1992. A copy of <i>Classic Forum</i> magazine, featuring an article about "Death Row Groupies." <b>Stroke Factor: 8</b>	In a ratty black binder: two copies of <i>Penthouse</i> and two copies of <i>Playboy</i> , one of the latter featuring an interview with John Travolta. <b>Stroke Factor: 5</b>
<b>BACK-OF-DOOR NOTICE</b>	"Please change the paper as you leave the room and spray so the room is ready for the next patient." <b>Stroke Factor: 4</b>	"Please Do Not Take Magazines!! It Only Hurts Yourself!! Any Donor Caught Will Be Expelled!" <b>Stroke Factor: 2</b>
<b>AUDIO/VIDEO</b>	Mounted video monitor and VCR. <i>Best of Penthouse Vol. 3</i> , featuring girls on sailboats rubbing themselves to the cool jazz musings of some saxophone guy. <b>Stroke Factor: 6</b>	Grunts from adjacent rooms. <b>Stroke Factor: 0</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	Nurse was eating spareribs. <b>Stroke Factor: 6</b>	Lab guy wore a blue jumpsuit and surgical gloves. <b>Stroke Factor: 3</b>
<b>MEMORABLE DIALOGUE</b>	Repro Man: So you didn't leave a specimen. Why not? SPY: I don't think this is right for me. Repro Man: Do you want to just drop it? SPY: Well, I tried. <b>Stroke Factor: 4</b>	Idant: You put down "sports" as a special interest. What type of sports? SPY: Uh...hot-air ballooning. Idant: Good, good, great. <b>Stroke Factor: 4</b>
<b>AVERAGE STROKE FACTOR</b>	6	2



# Best Place to Waste

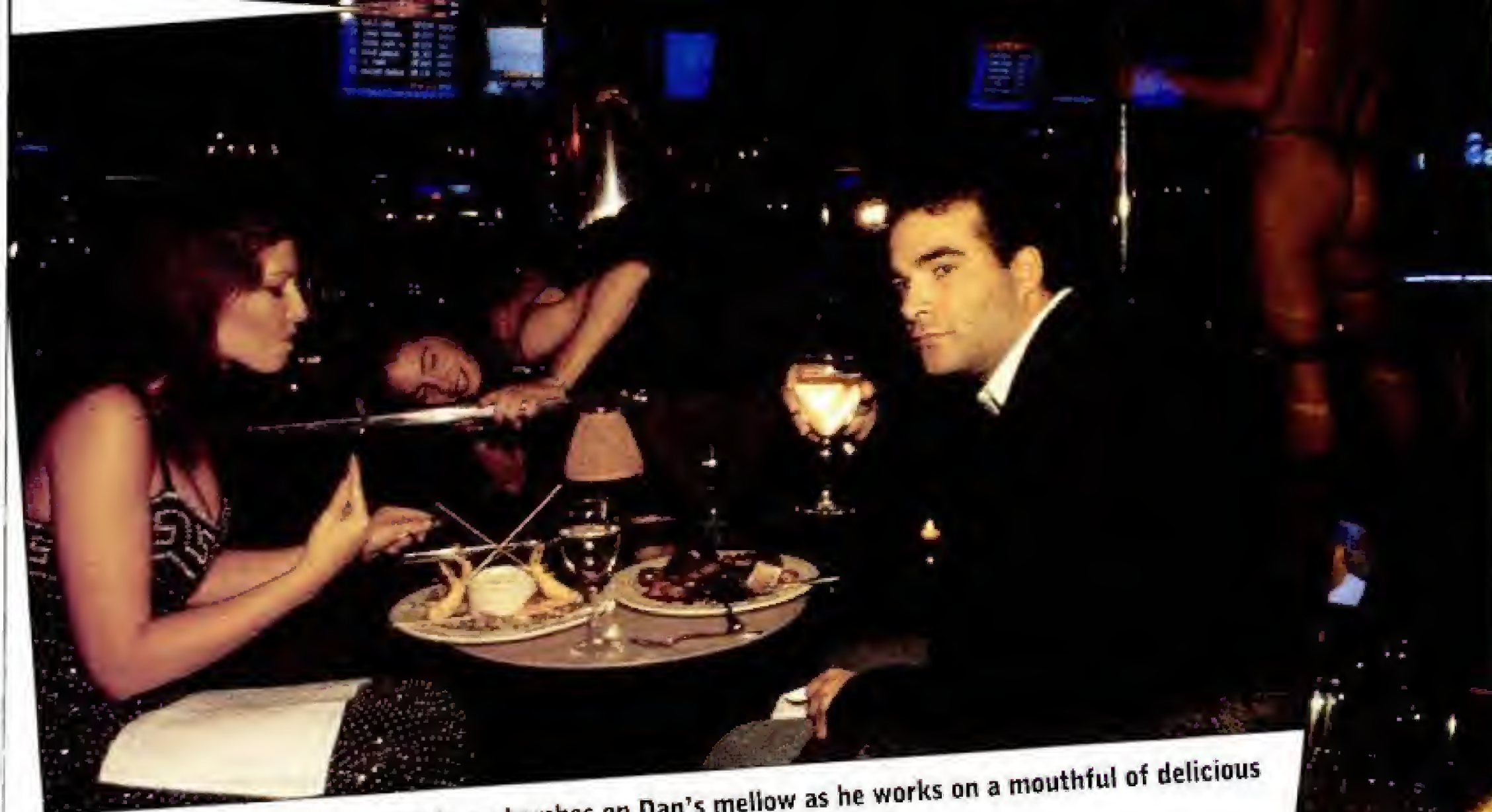
Getting drunk in NYC, depending on your size and weight, can be an expensive endeavor. Yeah, expensive if you're a pigeon. Contrary to popular belief, there are still caring "people that love people" populating these mean streets. Your job? Seek them out and exploit their ridiculous sense of good-heartedness. There is no better place to do this than in a barfly-filled watering hole. With the right setup, you can plaster yourself to the wall for less than a cheap bucket o' Spackle. You *will*, however, need a partner for this one, preferably one with some type of cute foreign accent. I chose a German.

**Dan and "Balki" (with hat) drink for free, courtesy of the easily hoodwinked, bucolic, country-bumpkin barkeep.**



THE LOCALE	WHERE SCAM TAKES PLACE	THE TALK	THE BOOTY
MILADY'S (SoHo)	At a table	<p>SPY: It's my friend's birthday!</p> <p>Waitress: Uh-huh.</p> <p>SPY: Yeah, it's his first birthday in America!</p> <p>Conspirator: Da!</p> <p>Waitress: Oh, that must be pretty interesting.</p>	Diddy-squat
THE ZONE (SoHo)	At the bar while the German uses the bathroom	<p>SPY: I think we're gonna need some shots. My friend's getting married tomorrow and we need to dull the pain.</p> <p>Barmaid: He's getting married tomorrow? On a Friday?</p> <p>SPY: Yeah...uh, at City Hall.</p> <p>Barmaid: Oh, one of <i>those</i> weddings.</p> <p>SPY: ...yep, one of <i>those</i>.</p> <p>Barmaid: One of <i>those</i>.</p> <p>SPY: Right, one of <i>those</i>.</p>	Two free double shots of tequila
THE IRISH PUB (Midtown)	In the middle of the bar	<p>SPY: Let's have a round of tequila. My friend Johann here is feeling a little down.</p> <p>Barkeep: (in a bad fake Irish accent) What's eatin' ya lad?</p> <p>SPY: His divorce is being finalized tomorrow.</p> <p>Barkeep: Well, you're better off without her. Believe it or not, I was widowed twice.</p> <p>SPY: Really?</p> <p>Barkeep: Yes, my first wife died, believe it or not, from food poisoning. Poison mushrooms. My second wife died of a head contusion. Yes, she wouldn't eat the mushrooms. HA HA HA!</p>	One free shot of tequila
CHINA SHALOM II (Upper West Side)	At the counter	<p>SPY: It's my friend's birthday tonight. Think we can get some free Manischewitz?</p> <p>China Shalom Guy: Huh?</p>	Zilch (Note: It is difficult to get anything free in a place called China Shalom when you're with a German tourist.)
DIVE BAR (Upper West Side)	At the end of the bar while the German is in the bathroom	<p>SPY: Feeling kind of down tonight. My friend is being deported tomorrow.</p> <p>Drunk Businessman: That's if he lives through the night! Ha!</p>	Not a drop
GOOGIES (The Village)	In the middle of the bar	<p>SPY: My friend is getting married tomorrow. One of <i>those</i> weddings.</p> <p>Barkeep: Well, here's an extra nail for the coffin.</p>	One free shot of tequila
BARROW STREET ALE HOUSE (The Village)	At the bar while the German plays "Oh What a Night" on the jukebox	<p>SPY: See that guy over there? Tomorrow he'll be a free man. His divorce is being finalized.</p> <p>Barmaid: Happy or miserable?</p> <p>SPY: What do you think?</p> <p>Barmaid: He looks kind of weird.</p>	One free shot of tequila





Ladies, *PLEASE*. A ravenous stripper harshes on Dan's mellow as he works on a mouthful of delicious roughage at Ten's World Class Cabaret, one of NYC's premier nitespots.

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Go to any top-of-the-line strip joint and the promise of a FREE HOT BUFFET is sure to greet you. "But it costs \$20 to get in!" those not in the know might balk. Just listen and learn, sonny. At the front-desk area, strip clubs almost always have flyers inviting you to hold your next company party at their establishment. Just make up the name of a corporation (always a ton of fun if the acronym spells A.S.S. or something), mail it in, and in three days you'll have 10 free passes. *Bone Appétit!*

Dear God: Sorry for all of the really bad things I've done. And, oh yeah, please let Green Bay cover the spread. Thanks, babe.



Frankly, my dear, I'd prefer a spoon.

## Best Soul Cleansing

After all the scamming and lying, you may feel a slight twinge in your stomach. That's just your conscience. Before it makes you do something stupid—like volunteer to help children—hop over to a church confessional, explain what you've been up to, and *Voilà!* get absolved. The only drawback is a little thing called penance. It varies in length and difficulty from church to church, so here's a shopper's guide for the sinner on the go:

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# Pepsi—Be Young, Have Fun, Watch Chickens Die

ELIAS DELICATELY CARESSES THE BREAST feathers beneath the beak of a gamecock he is preparing for battle. The bird appears hypnotized, oblivious to the frantic cries of gamblers inside the Nazca arena who are wagering more than they can afford in this

poverty-stricken Peruvian desert community. The handler then artfully wraps adhesive tape around the razor-sharp gaffs that are attached to the rooster's natural spurs. The bloodshed that follows, as beaks fly and blood-tinged feathers scatter, is sponsored by Pepsi-Cola.

Elias, a local champion gamecock breeder, and his opponent pass beneath the red, white, and blue Pepsi logo that guards the entrance to an arena exclusively devoted to cockfighting. A narrow path that is fenced off from spectators leads the men to a second barricaded sand-filled pit, where the birds will fight. They nod at *El Juez*, who will sit in stoic judgment of the combat and whose declaration of victory will be absolute. The handlers whisper their final prayer to Pachamama, the Incan earth mother, then they place their pampered but vicious roosters inside the ring. The Peruvian Pepsi Generation leans forward in their seats as one cock squawks a ritualistic insult at the other one's mother before delivering a series of gouging blows to the side of his opponent's vulnerable neck.

The festivity will last for hours—although individual fights might last just seconds—as a succession of cock handlers

competes for valuable prize money and trophies. At year's end the champion breeder's name will be emblazoned on a wall next to a portrait of the Virgin Mary, sandwiched by two Pepsi billboards.

"COCKFIGHTING IS a sickening and gruesome bloodsport," says Jennifer O'Connor, a caseworker for the

adrenaline-induced panic and possibly carving up the clamoring spectators.

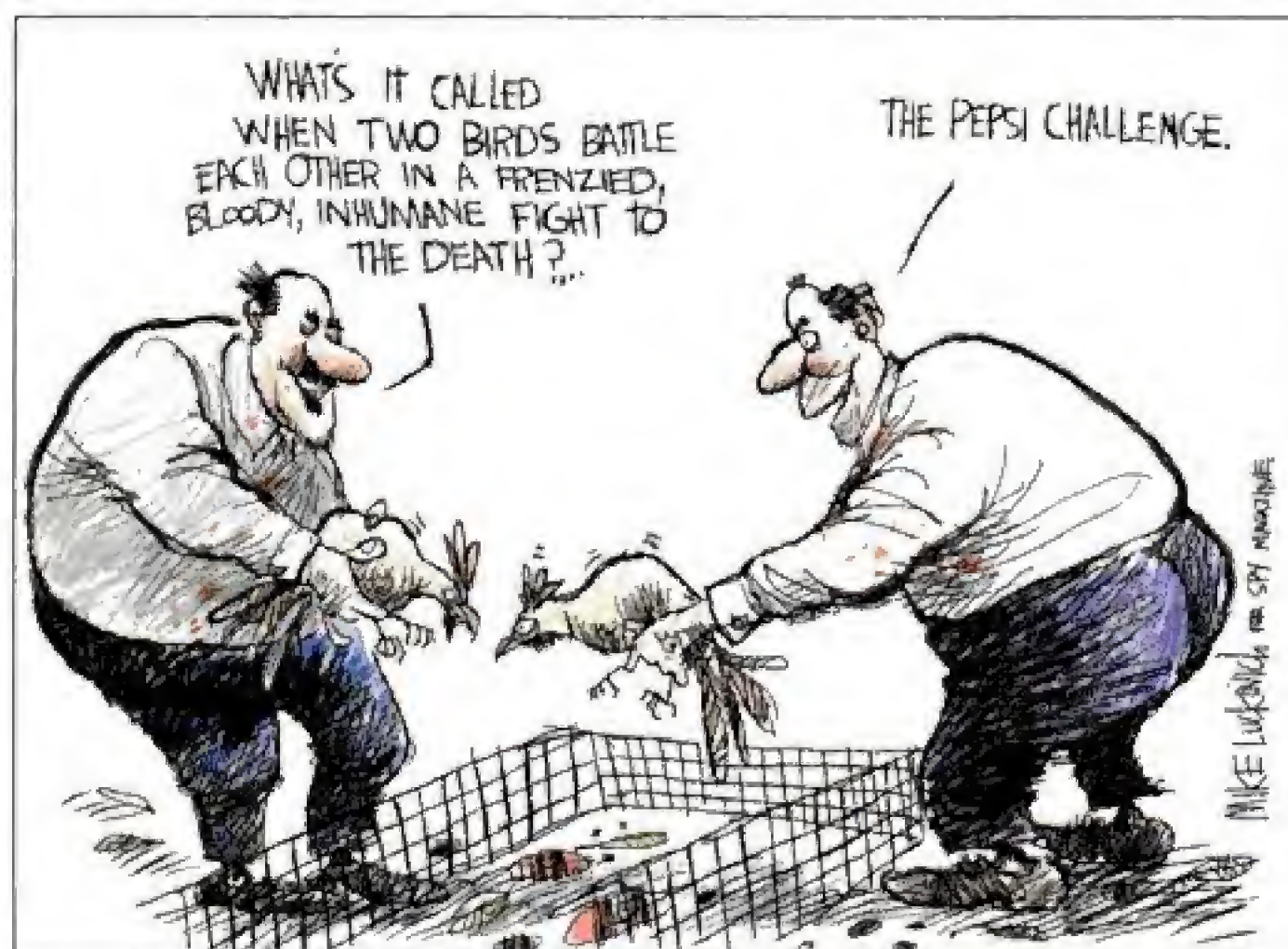
There is no TV to speak of in Nazca, only some grainy soap operas and soccer games broadcast from Lima, some eight hours north by bus. The only movie theater in town is boarded up. So the populace gathers to watch feathered gladiators strut their stuff to the death. And the more blood, the better.

"The reason that the handlers attach the razor-sharp spurs to the cock's claws," says O'Connor, "is not only to more easily cause injury to the other animal but also to draw more of a spectacle of blood. The more debauchery that is present at these fights, the more the crowd is whipped up into a drunken frenzy. And the more the crowd is whipped up, the more likely it is to bet. Money

is more likely to be exchanged when more blood is evident, so the handlers try to utilize techniques that exhibit more blood. Blood is big money."

While it is legal for a U.S. multinational to sponsor cockfighting in Peru, Pepsi was disturbingly quick to abandon domestic standards of morality for the sake of its foreign marketing strategies.

According to John Walsh of the World Society for the Protection of



People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Blood literally sprays in the faces of a manic coterie of drunks and gamblers who sit close to the action in the front rows; the animals are not allowed to escape no matter how injured or exhausted they become; the roosters fight through punctured lungs, broken bones, and pierced eyes; and the wire meshwork prevents the highly armed and dangerous fowl from escaping in an



Animals, it was once not only common but *traditional* for U.S. companies to spice up their south-of-the-border presence with a dash of bloodsport. "Not long ago," he told SPY, "Citibank came under criticism for allowing its Mexico City subsidiary to host parties in which children of employees killed calves with knives in a brutal ritual aimed at initiating the young into the art of bullfighting. And Sheraton Hotels was chastised by animal rights groups for holding cockfights at a hotel in the Philippines."

Pepsi's chief rival also bent some beaks out of shape by forcibly turning chicken against chicken. A local Coke bottler was the sole sponsor of the first World Congress of Cocking festival, a gore-spattered two-day cock rumble held in Queretaro, Mexico, at Expo '93. Unlike Pepsi, however, Coca-Cola responded quickly to international protests and, in November 1994, announced that its group president for Latin America had issued a new policy stating that "operations within Latin America should no longer sponsor or promote events, including cockfighting events, where there is a risk of physical harm to animals." Given that the rules of cockfighting require one of the birds to *die* during the course of the fight, Coca-Cola's concerns about "risk of physical harm" certainly had some foundation.

SO WHY, IN THE caring nineties, does Pepsi sponsor the world's bloodiest poultry pastime? Could its Nazca operations be merely the actions of some "rogue" bottler? Or maybe some cynical Shining Path guerilla is exploiting the Pepsi name for the sake of a quick buck and a few dead chickens? No. "The parent company tightly regulates the activities of its franchise bottlers around the world, in everything from the recipe to distribution and the marketing of its carefully burnished corporate image," says Francisco Chavez, a Smith Barney analyst who follows PepsiCo's Latin American activities.

Then perhaps Pepsi advertised in what they mistakenly thought was a concert hall/indoor soccer arena, where they assumed that cockfighting took

place only rarely. Wrong again. The name of the arena in Nazca where Elias showcases his deadly cocks in the shadow of Pepsi billboards is the Coliseo de Gallos, or Cockfighting Coliseum. It is not some "general interest" recreation center that only occasionally features pumped-up bundles of McNuggets beaking each other into the afterlife; the arena is purpose-built for cockfighting. Just look at the large portrait of two handsome roosters in a face-off that is mounted amid the Pepsi billboards, or—for good measure—the sign proclaiming "The Home of the Association of Breeders and Fans of Fighting Cocks in Nazca."

And the fact that cockfighting is considered by some to be an inherent part of Latino culture does not wash with animal rights activists. "Cruelty is not culture," says PETA's O'Connor. "Culture is often used as a predictably self-serving response to the issue of cruelty. But culture is also used as an excuse for other bloodsports, like bullfighting. And female circumcision is also a cultural practice, but we as Americans don't find that socially acceptable. Why is it that when it comes to animals, we are able to let things slide as being culturally acceptable?"

Pepsi International denied SPY's repeated requests for comment. "A cockfighting story is not a top priority for us," said a secretary to Pepsi International spokesman Ken Ross. "My feeling is that you're going to get a runaround."

So why would an international beverage company stoop to sponsoring cockfights in order to expand its Latin American market? Pepsi's recent record in Latin America suggests desperation. The company's international beverage division has been buffeted by eroding market share in recent months, by near and actual loan defaults by bottlers in Mexico and Argentina, and by one highly publicized defection of its Venezuela bottler to Coca-Cola. In such chaotic times, chicken rights are often the first thing to go out the window. "In South America," says Chavez, "Pepsi has been sloppy in not overseeing operations in the very strict manner that they should have." Oh yeah? It probably feels pretty strict if you're a chicken.—Gary Rosenberger

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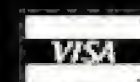
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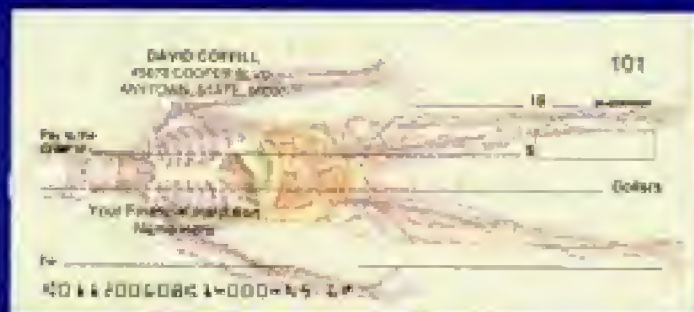


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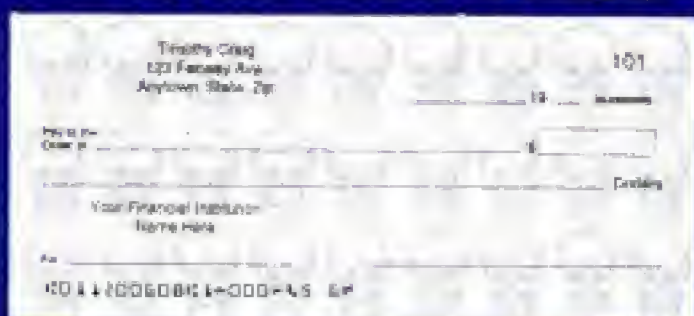
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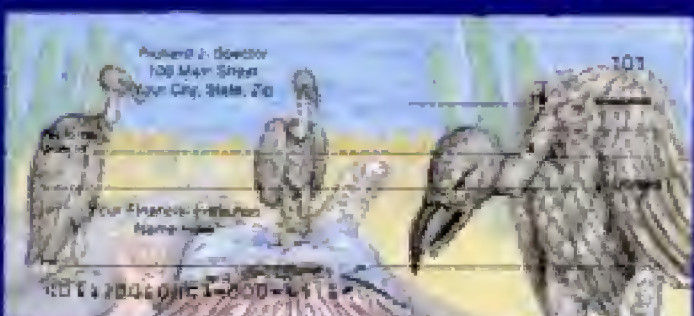
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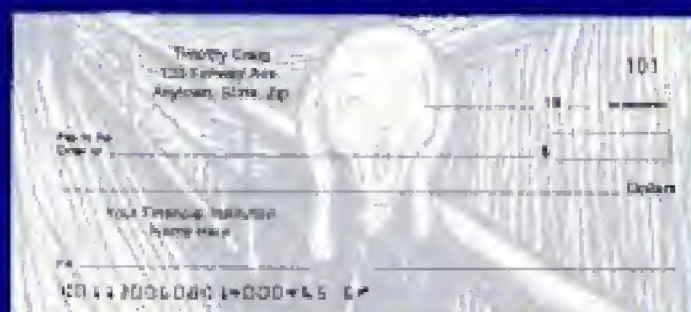
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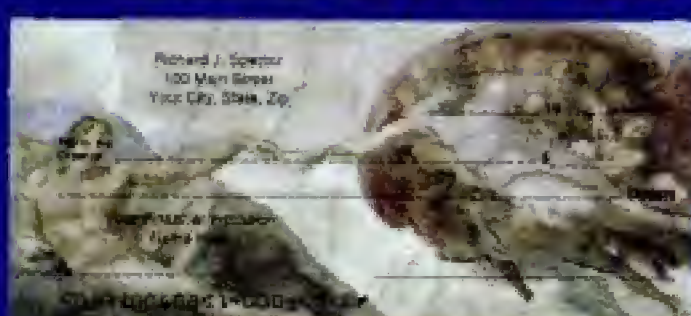
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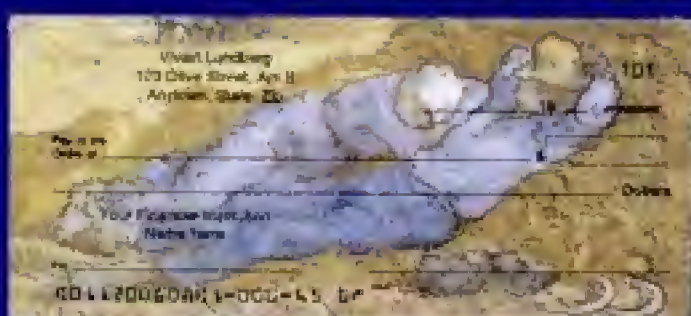
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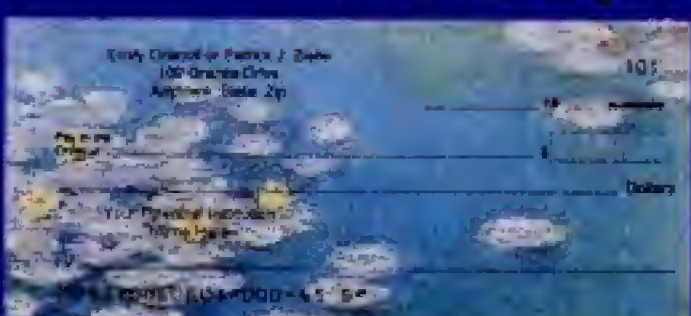
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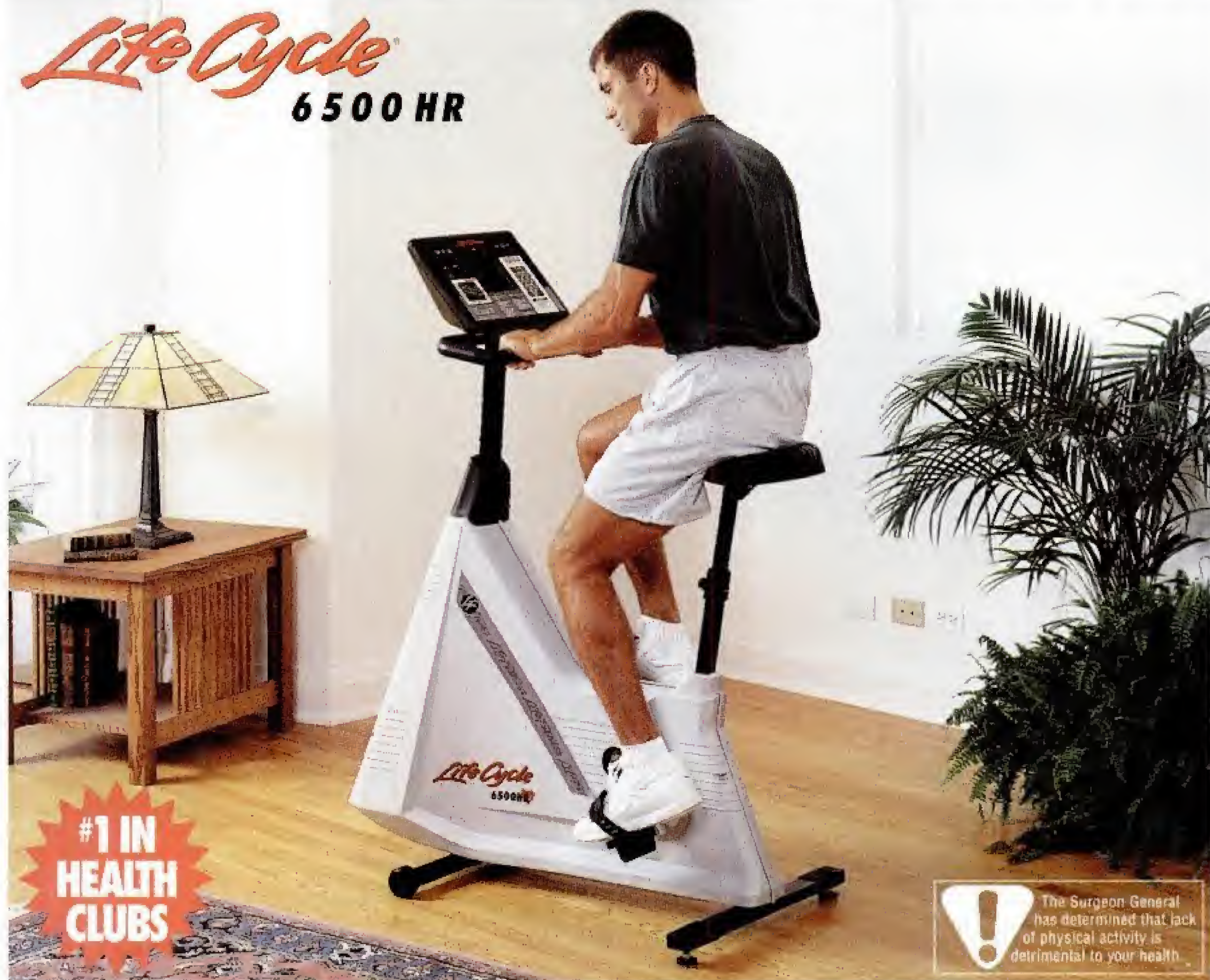
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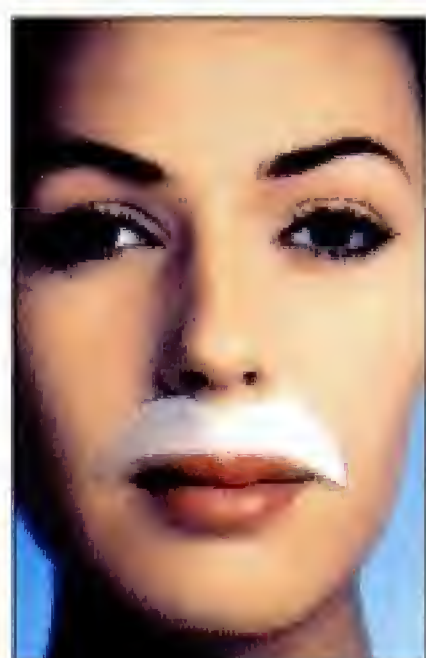
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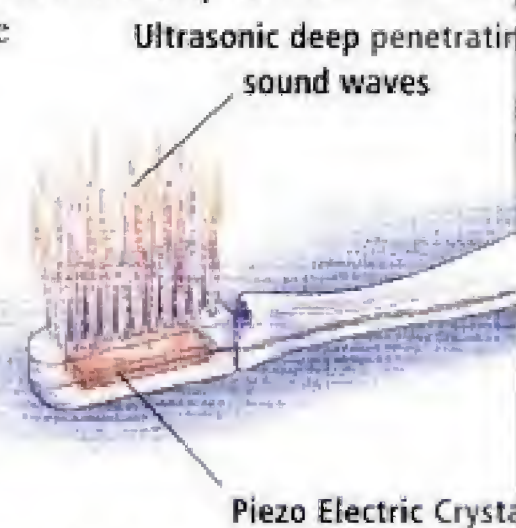
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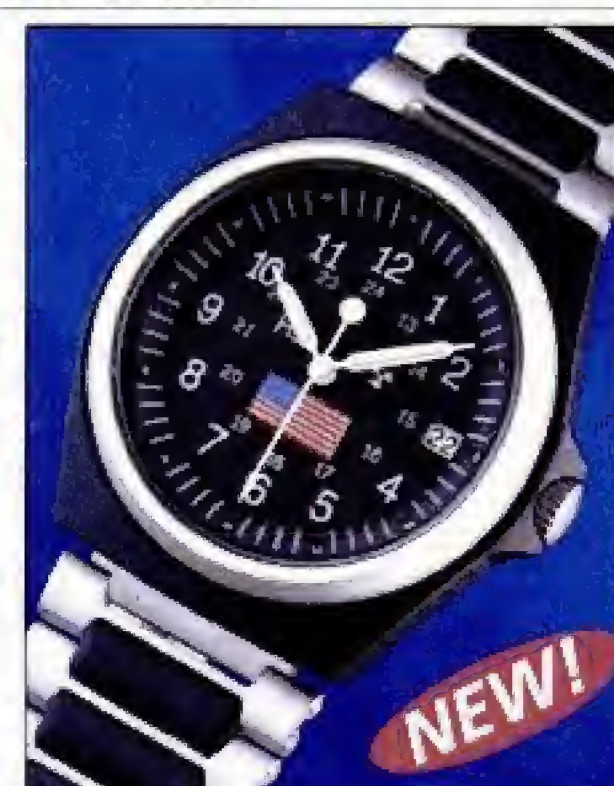
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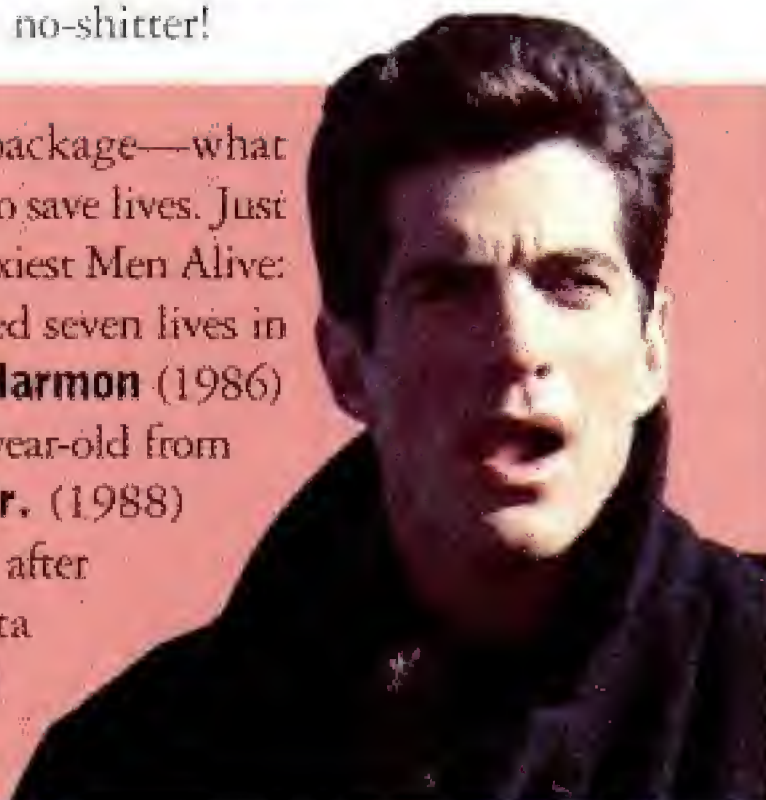
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**PICK THE SCABS!** Baseball's Montreal Expos have been formidable National League contenders over the last few years, but as long as there are no labor problems, their opponents have nothing to fear. In fact, in their ineffectual 28-

year existence, the Expos have only won their division twice, in 1981 and 1994, the only two seasons to have been shortened by union disputes. Unbelievable, eh? That's one strike away from a no-shitter!

**FORGET TIGHT BUNS** and a huge package—what women *really* look for in a guy is an ability to save lives. Just check out the roll call of *People* magazine's Sexiest Men Alive: **Tom Cruise** (Sexiest Man Alive 1990) saved seven lives in three separate incidents this year. **Mark Harmon** (1986) saved a life this year when he pulled a 16-year-old from a burning car outside his home. **JFK Jr.** (1988) brought **Daryl Hannah** back to New York after **Jackson Browne** landed her in a Santa Monica hospital. And, of course, **Brad Pitt** (1995) saved **Gwyneth Paltrow**'s career.



**KEANU MAKES ME WET:** With the release of *Feeling Minnesota*, **Keanu Reeves** has now appeared in three movies—including *My Own Private Idaho* and *The Prince of Pennsylvania*—whose titles contain the name of a U.S. state. Fascinatingly, all of those states qualified for federal flood-relief funding this year. If only 20th Century Fox had released Reeves's classic *Point Break* under the name of his character, Johnny Utah, then perhaps we would have seen those crazy **Osmonds** playing water polo instead of the piano!

Hanks's *Big* (1988). Not surprisingly, a well-placed Hollywood source has learned that Williams has just written and directed his own vanity schlock-rock flick, *That Thing Tom Hanks Does*.

**CENT OF A WEAPON:** It's no coincidence that shooting victim Abe Lincoln's face is on a penny. Look at all the singers who obsessed about pennies, only to get themselves shot: **John Lennon** (co-wrote "Penny Lane"), **Kurt Cobain** ("Pennyroyal Tea"), **Marvin Gaye** (on the cover of his 1978 album, *Here, My Dear*, holding a huge penny). Then there's **Sam** "A Change Is Gonna Come" **Cooke**. Some change, actually, Sam. One cent, to be exact.

**INSOMNIA IN INDIANAPOLIS:** **Robin Williams** seems to be sniffing at **Tom Hanks**'s career for inspiration. Williams's *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987) was a Southeast-Asia-hijinks follow-up to Hanks's *Volunteers* (1985). Williams's *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993) was a crossdressing response to Hanks's eighties TV show *Bosom Buddies*. Williams's fantasy game *Jumanji* (1995) took Hanks's *Mazes and Monsters* (1982) to the next level. Robin's *Birdcage* (1996) was a homosexual rejoinder to Tom's *Philadelphia* (1993). And Williams's latest effort, *Jack* (1996), followed

**MUST SEE T&A:** Publishing giant **Jann Wenner**'s new sexual persona seems to include a fetish for nude **NBC** Thursday night sitcom personalities... of both sexes. Peacock-network actors to completely disrobe for Wenner's *Rolling Stone* are **Jennifer Aniston** (*Friends*), **Brooke Shields** (*Suddenly Susan*), and the entire cast of *Seinfeld*. **Courteney Cox**, also of *Friends*, appeared on the cover of another Wenner publication, *US*, in a state of undress. No word yet on whether former Thursday-nighter **Lea Thompson** will pose for Jann as *Caroline in Her Skivvies*.



**DOUBLOON SEVEN?** A curious thing about the actors who have played 007. Those who were lucky enough to be in a "Gold Bond" movie (specifically, Sean Connery, *Goldfinger*; Roger Moore, *The Man with the Golden Gun*; and Pierce Brosnan, *Goldeneye*) have gone on to successful movie careers. Unfortunately, those who *didn't* (George Lazenby and Timothy Dalton) were never heard from again. Realizing their mistakes, the two double-oh-nothin's are said to be teaming up for a flick about Bond's high-powered lawyer duo, tentatively titled *Goldstein and Goldstein*.







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### WHAT ARE THE STATISTICS?\*

- 12 million new STD cases/year—86% occur in persons 15-29 yrs
  - 1 in 3 college students has an STD
  - women's risk to STDs—more than 2x's higher than men's
  - more than half of the pregnancies each year are unintended
- \*reference on request

### WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER METHODS?



"Reality" acts like a barrier. The woman inserts it ahead of time. It's made of clear, strong but soft plastic. "Reality" rarely rips or tears during use and lines the vagina allowing free movement for the penis.

"Reality" can be put in place long before intimacy. To insert "Reality" squeeze the inner ring and push into the vagina as far as possible. This ring helps to hold the female condom in place inside while the outer rim stays outside the body and helps to protect. When both partners are ready, the penis is simply guided into the female condom. Extra lubricant is added for extra pleasure and ease of movement.



### DOES IT PROTECT?

Failure Rates, 1 Year	Typical Use <sup>1</sup>	Perfect Use <sup>2</sup>
<b>Reality Female Condom</b>	21%	<b>5%</b>
Male Latex Condom	12%	3%
Cervical Cap	18%	11%
Diaphragm	18%	6%
Spermicide	21%	6%
Unprotected	8.5%	

<sup>1</sup> typical use includes not using it at all or not using it correctly

<sup>2</sup> perfect use is when you use the method correctly every time you have sex

### WHY IS IT EASY TO USE...AND KEEP USING?

Most women report that insertion is easy, especially after using "Reality" two or three times. Both men and women report that "Reality" **feels good**. There's no restricting the penis and the soft feel of the thin but strong plastic together with the lubricant is pleasurable. **Men like it! Women like it!** It's available at your pharmacy!

### SHOULD YOU TRY REALITY?

Yes, if you:

- can't or won't use male latex condoms
  - seek a new non-hormonal method of contraception and sexually transmitted disease prevention
  - use the pill but want an additional method to reduce the risks of STDs
  - are allergic to latex
- If used properly, male latex condoms are highly effective at preventing sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS (HIV infection). ■ If you are not going to use a male latex condom, you can use "Reality" to help protect yourself and your partner. ■ "Reality" only works when you use it. Use it every time you have sex. ■ Before using "Reality", read the directions and learn how to use it properly.

Call **1-800-274-6601** for: Free samples. Questions. Product Information.

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# JUST ADD BACARDI



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